

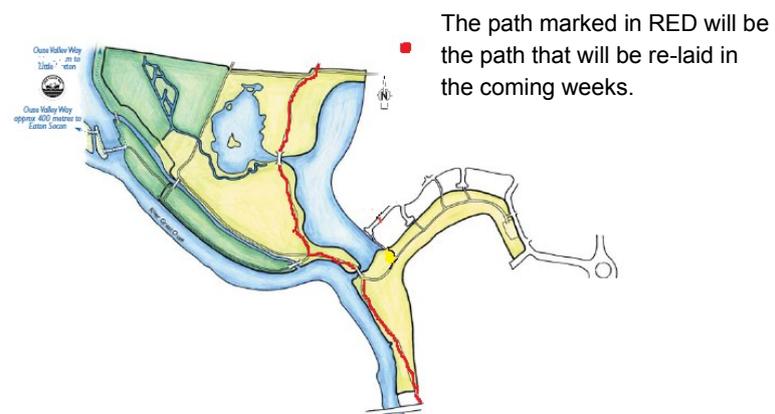
Barford Road Pocket Park Quarterly Newsletter

July 2011

Work Coming Up...

Over the past and coming weeks, the park has and will see a few changes. Over the past few months many of you will have noticed the quite obvious work going on in the meadows behind the school. The construction of the new “Willow Bridge” will provide fantastic new access for cyclists buggy users and pedestrians alike. It will also make the link between the communities of Eaton Socon and Eynesbury a lot easier. The works haven’t caused that much chaos, the path leading to the park looks a bit messy at the minute, but this will soon be rectified when the builders move out. The bridge itself has been funded by Cambridgeshire County Council, Hunts District Council and Gallagher Estates. Sustrans (A national cycling charity) have also secured funding for part of the project to pay for all the paths that lead up to the bridge to be re-laid in order to provide a good surface to cycle and walk on.

This is where Barford Road Pocket Park comes in. One of the paths that is going to be upgraded in the coming weeks is the main path through the park. This is the track that runs along next to the marina. Some parts of this path get very wet and muddy in the winter and I had a lot of queries towards the end of last winter asking for the path to be fixed, so now our prayers have been answered and this path will be re-laid very soon.



THERE MAY BE SOME DISRUPTION TO ACCESS AROUND THE PARK WHILST THIS IS GOING ON. I APOLOGISE IN ADVANCE FOR ANY INCONVENIENCE CAUSED.

Sometime in the next few weeks there will also be a local contractor coming into cut the big meadow on the park for hay. This will involve several days of machinery operation, but will cause minimal disruption to park visitors.

We try to cut the meadow every year to reduce the nutrient level in the soil. This allows better conditions for wildflowers to grow in, which in the long run will allow a better diversity of flora. Normally, this would be an operation we would undertake ourselves, but we don't have the need for that amount of hay so this year so we have given the work to a local farmer to do as he can use the hay himself. This year good hay is very scarce nationally because of bad growing conditions this spring. A meadow we have cut elsewhere which normally produces between 500 and 600 bales, only produced 350 this year! That's nearly a third less than the normal average!



This meadow will soon be cut for hay.

Summer Time.....

The park is looking fantastic at this time of the year. Today when I was at the park I actually remembered the camera and took some great pictures. You can see them on the parks Facebook page. I will try and keep it updated with picture regularly so you can see what is going on.

My personal favourite place at the park this year is the brook which runs from Black Trap Weir down to where it meets with the river. Its a real piece of tranquillity that's great to enjoy on a nice sunny day (fishing rod optional!).

Thursday the 7th of July was the date of the annual "evening stroll" around the park. Three people joined me in the evening for a lovely walk around the park to enjoy what turned out to be a sunny evening. I really enjoy this event every year. I'm not one for a formal guided walk so I enjoy just having an informal natter whilst enjoying the parks surroundings and meeting the locals that use the park every day.

As we aren't running the same amount of events as previous years due to restrictions on budgets, guided walks are about the only event I can run. Keep an eye out for more walks and work parties when I have decided upon a date for them.

Wildlife sightings....

The past month or two have flown by so fast it seems I haven't really noticed what's been around, but here are a couple of things that are always worth seeing!

Ragwort– this yellow plant is poisonous to horses, but is the food plant of the Cinnabar moth caterpillar. The caterpillars normally eat the whole plant, but because of funny growing seasons this year, the caterpillars have been and gone before most of the Ragwort has flowered. So now there is plenty of it about.



Burnett Moths–These Black and red moths seem to thrive in the park. Last year there was an unbelievable amount of them,. This year there aren't so many, but still quite a few about. The caterpillar makes its cocoon on almost anything that stands still including wire fences!



Knapweed– the meadow is packed with this purple plant. It seems to do really well each year and is a great food plant for butterflies and bees alike.

Ways to contact me.....

Up to now, I have included only 2 ways of contacting me on the newsletters, through email or landline telephone. Now however, there are several more ways in which you can contact me.

To start with, the Friends of Barford Road Pocket Park have their own website in which there is a way to message me and now the park also has its own Facebook page. You can search “Barford Road Pocket Park” on your Facebook search box and “Like” us for the latest news, pictures and events. Also please feel free to leave your comments and questions on the wall, but please remember that Facebook is a public place and you should always protect private information when online.

Find the website at www.barford-pocket-park.btck.co.uk



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