



Friends of Harrold- Odell Country Park

Newsletter No. 9
Autumn 2010

Harrold-Odell Country Park
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'Friends' are people who care about the countryside, especially Harrold-Odell Country Park and who work with the Bedford Borough Council Park Staff in all sorts of ways to make the Park a welcoming place for everyone.

News From The Park

Lots of winter tasks will take place in the new few months, coppicing, logging, hedge-laying and clearing areas around the lakes and along the river. 11th December Richard and Janet have been invited to attend a ceremony organised by CPRE as the Park has been nominated for an award (landscape improvement - Odell Community Orchard). A big thank you to all the volunteers and 'Friends' for all the help and support with numerous tasks over the year. Recently we have purchased a new chainsaw (for Janet), a trailer for ferrying goods and equipment around the Park, new wildlife signs will shortly be in the Bird Hide, new

information boards, funding towards new fencing for the playground at the Odell end of the Park. Richard and Janet have recently attended a course run by Environmental Enforcement team at Borough Hall to become Dog Enforcement Officers, when all the formalities have been attended to they will have the power to issue £50 Fixed Penalty Notices for fouling and other offences.

Activities in the Park

Conservation Tasks Autumn 2010/11

Come and join in with practical work to enhance the park for visitors and wildlife on the following dates:-

Monday 29th November, 20th December (Christmas party 11am start), 31st January, 28th February, 28th March.

All tasks start at 10am and finish mid afternoon, but you only need stay as long as you want. For additional information please contact Janet Munro or Richard Dowsett on 01234 720016 or email hocp@bedford.gov.uk

Health Walks

Health walks are being run fortnightly on Thursdays in each month. Meet at 10.30am at the Visitor Centre Café.

Each walk lasts just over half an hour and is guided by a trained leader. The aim is to improve your physical health and mental

wellbeing. Walking regularly can reduce your risk of heart disease, high blood pressure, strokes and depression.

You can book beforehand or simply meet on the day. *Please contact the Park on (01234) 720016 for dates* or email walk leader Janet

at janet.munro@bedford.gov.uk

Up & Coming Dates:

November 11th and 25th

December 9th and 23rd

Stop Press

Bedford Museum & Landscape Day - October 24th - another successful day at the Park which was enjoyed by over 1000 people

Open Day - Monday 25th April (Easter Bank Holiday Monday)
more details will be announced in the forthcoming months.

Friends Newsletter

This Newsletter is published quarterly and is distributed to Friends either by post or by email. If you would like to receive a copy all you need do is to register as a Friend. Membership is free and commits you to nothing except being kept up-to-date with what's going on in the Park.

To register as a friend, collect a Registration Form from one of the Rangers or telephone (01234 720930) or email your request to David Taylor at secretary@hocp.co.uk

If you already receive your copy by mail, we would urge you to switch to email in order to save us money. All you have to do in order to switch over to email is to send your request to this effect to secretary@hocp.co.uk.

Donations

The Friends donations via the car park collection box and from other donations made by individuals. The money is used to make the Park a better place for visitors and in recent times has been spent on the following

1. The green container for Carrie Yuen, our residential chainsaw carver
2. The Sweet Chestnut log for the **Phyllis Gershon seat**
3. A new chainsaw for Janet
4. The development of our website at www.hocp.co.uk

During these times of cut-backs in public expenditure, we still want to continue improving the Park. To this end public donations will become increasingly important whether they come from the car park or individuals. If you would like to make a donation it would greatly appreciated, however small. Cheques should be made payable to 'Friends of Harrold-Odell Country Park' please.

If you would like any further information, please contact us

Nina Bransgrove-Knight (Chair)

01234 721149

Rachel Halton (Treasurer)

01234 720572

David Taylor (Secretary)

01234 720930

Friends' Committee Meeting

The next meeting is on **10th February 2011** at 10am in the Visitor Centre at the Park.

Everyone is welcome to attend.