

Friends of Walton Colliery Nature Park

Newsletter

Number 1- May 2010



Welcome to the first edition of the Friends of Walton Colliery Nature Park (FWCNP) newsletter, keeping you informed of events that have taken place, and of others to be held in the future.

Friends of WCNP is a group of local volunteers which was set up earlier this year to help raise funds for the improvement of the park. Anyone can join (there is no fee) and volunteer as much, or as little, of their time as they wish.

We help the WMDC countryside ranger and are a link between Wakefield council and the local residents. We aim to gather funding for physical improvements, see joint projects through to completion, and give opinions on proposed plans for the park.

Our overall aim is not to radically change the park but to protect the natural beauty and help improve the existing facilities.

For example:

- ❖ Purchasing and installing benches
- ❖ Carry out environmental clean ups
- ❖ Organise community events or group walks
- ❖ Improve the biodiversity and wildlife areas in the park

Our first committee meeting was on the 17 March 2010 and we hope to arrange further public meetings in order to share ideas. Some 'quick fixes' were identified by the group which we tackled with other FWCNP members.

Our first task was to cut back saplings and brambles at 'Snake Rocks' which had overgrown the grassland. The second was a litter pick around the hide and main pathways. Although these tasks were hard work, the weather was hot and sunny and we all enjoyed being outside. John Baxter, the countryside ranger, has an extensive knowledge and opened our eyes to things we walk past regularly and do not notice!

Below is a photograph of a grass snake that John took the day after our morning cutting back some very prickly brambles.



Our next public meeting is:
7.15 -8.15pm on 1 June
in Walton village hall.

Or contact fwcnp-secretary@yahoo.co.uk

Watch out for details of further working parties and events. Enjoy your Park!