

Friends of Walton Colliery Nature Park Newsletter

Number 2 - August 2010

Friends of WCNP is a group of local volunteers which was set up earlier in 2010.

Our first committee meeting was in March and the first formal public meeting was in July. Since forming the Friends group we have:

- ❖ improved the snake habitat
- ❖ litter picked
- ❖ planted a lot of heather (in the pouring rain!)
- ❖ liaised with Network Rail to install a section of fencing along the railway line
- ❖ organised a Friends group stand at the Anglers Country Park Open Day
- ❖ installed some new benches



Now the nesting season has finished we will be able to do more work in the park. Our overall aim is not to radically change the park but to protect the natural beauty and help improve the existing facilities.

The first public meeting demonstrated the wide range of knowledge of the Friends group – experts on wildlife such as butterflies and badgers; also descendants of people who lived on the Spike (Ings cottages) and worked at the colliery.

At future public meetings we would like to include speakers to talk about the Nature Park and its history.



At the open day at Anglers Country Park the Friends group was invited to have a stand. It was good to meet people from other, longer established, groups such as Haw Park Wood, Newmillerdam, School Hill and Lofthouse Colliery, who all offered their support for the Friends of Walton Colliery Nature Park.



John Baxter, our Countryside Ranger, surprised us all with his excellent performance on the harmonium, enticing people to our stand!

Our next public meeting is:

**7.15 -8.15pm on 24th August 2010
at Walton village hall.**

Including a short talk on badgers
by Pam Walters