



Friends

of FOREST FARM COUNTRY PARK
and GLAMORGANSHIRE CANAL
LOCAL NATURE RESERVE

Issue No: 114 December 2019

website: www.forestfarm.org.uk

Postcode: CF14 7JJ

*To all our members and volunteers
Wishing you all a Very Happy Christmas
and best wishes for a healthy and happy New Year.*



Replacement of the Bird hide - Update

I can appreciate from the outside it may look like nothing has really happened apart from the fund raising. However, things are progressing behind the scenes with the replacement bird hide. We are working closely with the Friends.

Plans for a more robust hide, rather than just replacing it with another timber one exactly like the old one, are being investigated and quotes sought. This will hopefully ensure that we do not end up in the same position again as this unfortunately was the second time this hide has been burnt down. The changes do take a more time to put in place.

We have also had indication from Cardiff Councils Insurers that there will be some funding available to combine with the funds raised through the crowd funding page so hopefully we will now have what we need to put the well-used facility back in place.

Nicola Hutchinson
Conservation Officer

The 'Friends' Open Day October 5th

What a fantastic day we had! Plenty to see and do with hundreds of visitors. There were lots of families, which was great, and, to top it all, some really lovely weather. Read all about it on Pages 6 & 7.

p.s. Car parking. So successful was our Open Day that some people had problems parking, especially in the afternoon. The Rangers who were helping us that day were well aware of the difficulties and reported this back.

The Parks Department are now looking at the feasibility of using the area adjacent to the car park as an overflow area for special events. In the short term this will depend on cost, however, any long term development plans for Forest Farm will include this area.

The Orchard at Forest Farm

The orchard at Forest Farm has over 70 fruit trees — mostly apple (eating, cooking and cider), but also pear, plum, damson, gage, cherry and a medlar.

Many of you will have seen the orchard with its' abundant harvest at our Open Day.



Photo: Laura Thomas

Many of the trees have been 'adopted', several in memory of family members. (If you'd like to adopt a tree, please get in touch.)

On our website (www.forestfarm.org.uk), you can see a plan of all the trees in the orchard - our thanks to **John Harding**.

Sheila Austin

Hello Friends - and a Happy Christmas !

Where does the time go? No doubt by the time you receive this, you will be busy with Christmas. Well, the Rangers and Friends have been busy over the last 3 months too.

In the Ranger's report (p3) , Alec describes the work they have been doing on the Reserve - restoration of the wetlands, removal of ash trees and planting - and also why. Read about the essential repair work needed on the towpath(p5). Other Rangers, Paul and Richie have been assisting the Friends' volunteers with their work on the Reserve (p4) which is so essential for its maintenance. Where would we be without volunteers? Their work is a sign of commitment and care people show for the Reserve and this is true of Andrew Davies, a photographer who loved Forest Farm. p10)

As you see on the front page, we have the official update on the replacement of the bird hide. The nature walks remind us of the bird life seen (p5) and also some unusual fungi (p8). There is an article about a new Friends group for St Mary's Gardens in Whitchurch (p9) - you might like to offer them some support. Last but not least I've included quite a few photos on our Open Day - a happy and successful day (pp6-7).

Look at Events for the walks and talks coming up and we look forward to seeing you there if you can make it.

Our thanks to everyone who helps us.

with best wishes,

Sheila Austin

Membership Fee - something to think about

When the Committee discussed this before, (and also raised it at an AGM), it's been decided *not* to make a change.

However, in recent months, and quite independently, several members have asked why the membership fee is so low and has remained at £5 for so long. It's around the price of a coffee and piece of cake these days.

FOR. The **larger size** of the newsletter, now regularly 12 pages and intermittently 16 pages and in **colour; printing costs** have increased and, more significantly in recent years, the **postage**. We buy tools and equipment for the many maintenance tasks needed on the Reserve, repairs to the bird hides and improvements to the Wardens Centre. We also buy bird feed.

AGAINST. **Emailed copies** save postage though there are still some costs attached to this; some members are generous giving more than the fee at the time of membership renewal, sometimes linking this to bird feed.

Would donations generally decrease if the cost of membership rose? Also, our funds have been comfortable (probably not a financial term!!) BUT we will be making a significant contribution to the bird hide replacement fund.

The Committee would like you to think about this and let us know your views. It will be an agenda item again at the 2020 A.G.M.

Deadline for articles for next newsletter - 10th February, 2020

See back page for contact details

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Reserve Report

Alec Stewart - Ranger

It's been a very busy period this year with plenty of work on and around the Reserve. September was relatively dry and we carried out hay rakes around the city and at Forest Farm. However, one of the main projects this year is a continuation of the Network Rail Funding grant and involved the **restoration of the wetlands, reedbeds and ponds**. The normal maintenance was carried out as usual involving the Rangers, Greening our city, CCV, and Cardiff Rivers Group. This involves cutting back the reeds and vegetation to keep clear viewing areas and make sure the reed beds do not become clogged up with old reed.

This time, however, we cleared the whole wetland scrape area from reeds, vegetation and encroaching willow. We have been worried about how, over successive years, the wetland has been drying out - particularly in the summer period. We identified several problems to do with silt build up and stopping water from entering the wetland and the inability to adjust water levels. The original pipe system which brings water into the area was broken as well.

The funding has enabled us to repair the pipes and bring in an excavator for de-silting and scraping. Obviously, to do this, we had to clear a way in for the machinery and so carried out some coppicing and **removal of some ash trees**. This work is mostly complete now and the area has been re-fenced. It will be sown with woodland bulbs such as **Ramsons, Bluebells and Wood Anemone**. There is still more work to do, but now we will monitor the water levels to give us more understanding of the way forward. This work should help to keep the wetland in good order for years to come for both the public and the wildlife the area contains.

I mentioned ash trees had to be taken down. Most of these are due to the disease called ash die back which is affecting the whole country. Unfortunately, on the Reserve and around the city, there will be a lot more trees that have to be felled for this reason.

For the Friends October Open Day, we had a lovely weather and all were kept very busy attending to the public. I would like to thank all involved for their hard work and making it such a great success.



Snipe - at Forest Farm. Sorry, photographer unknown.

There was also a history walk around the Reserve linked to our Foods of the Forest event, led by our very own Kevin Date. The basis of the walk was to take you back to the Bronze Age discussing what plants would have been around then compared to today, and relating that to common folklore at the time. I feel I should say that contrary to popular belief Kevin did not pass this information on from first-hand experience. He is not that old, well not quite!

I have not had much chance to carry out any surveys on the wildlife this autumn. It has been a good year for **fungi** though with lots of different species spotted around the Reserve. Even with all the work being carried out on the wetland, we have still had **Water Rail, Snipe** and of

course the ever present **Kingfisher** putting in an appearance.

Nearly all the leaves have fallen now and there is a chill in the air. I think Winter is upon us.



Ramsons (wild garlic) growing by the canal path.
Something to look forward to along with the bluebells, wood anemones and celandines.

Volunteering with the Friends of Forest Farm

September 8th

Twelve volunteers spent a gloriously sunny morning hay-raking in the top meadow (the one between Long Wood and the railway cutting, towards the Longwood Drive end).

Cutting the grass now and removing the cuttings will help encourage wildflowers next year.

If left uncut, the grass would become coarser and taller, and swamp any flowers. Then brambles and nettles would start to take over, and before long there'd be no grassland left at all. Wildflowers also don't like nutrient-rich soil, which is why it's essential to rake the cuttings off, so they don't rot-down in place.

The hay was moved to large piles on the edges of the grassland and could provide habitat for grass snakes, etc, over the winter.

Thanks to everyone who came along, and to Rangers Paul and Richie.

October 13th

If you brush your head a bit less on overhanging trees when walking alongside the Melingriffith feeder and Glamorganshire canal, you can thank the nine volunteers who spent the morning removing dangling branches and drooping boughs.

Reward for their labours came in the form of apple cake, made with apples from Forest Farm's own orchard

- <https://forestfarm.org.uk/visit/the-orchard/> (Thanks Eszter!

- And thanks to Paul the Ranger for providing tools.)

November 11th

Seven volunteers, plus Richie the Ranger, spent a beautiful Autumn morning doing some much-needed maintenance on the dipping pond by the Wardens' Centre.

Most of the work was done in the water and around the edge of the pond, removing bur-reed, bog bean and other plants that were taking over.

The vegetation will be left by the edge of the pond for a couple of days to allow any aquatic animals removed along with the plants to make their way back into the water.

Albyn struck out on his own and focused on giving the deceptively large hedge a good trim, to the extent of almost disappearing into the middle of it for quite some time.



At 11 o'clock the two-minutes silence of Remembrance Sunday were respectfully observed.

(Thanks to **Jon Wallis** for the photos.)

(*Join in on the second Sunday monthly, 10.00 - 13.00.

See www.forestfarm.org.uk or Events on pp11/12)

Outdoors, having fun and helping maintain and improve biodiversity on the Reserve.

Want to join in*?



Nature Walk October 2019

There was a good turnout for today's stroll around Forest Farm and the bright autumn morning presented some very pretty leaf colour in the woods and especially along the canal. So it was not too disappointing that the still abundant cover obscured our view of most of the birds, though it did not impede our hearing them.

The youngest of our number was a mere 10 months and I was far too polite to inquire the age of the oldest!

At the hide by the wardens hut there were **Sparrows, Great Tits and Coal Tits**. While we could hear a lot of high pitched tweeting, sightings were few and far between until the bridge over the feeder when a **Kingfisher** was heard. A few lucky members of the group got a glimpse of an azure flash too!

We carried on walking and heard and saw plenty of **Blackbirds and Robins**. At the hide someone had bird seed and this tempted a **Blue Tit** to approach, a young-looking **Dunnock** also paid a visit. A noisy **Moorhen** was messing about on the water. A large flock (20) of elbejays (little brown jobs) took off from the trees but disappointingly were too distant to identify; I will take a punt and say they were **Siskins**. **Rabbits** were present in the meadow but we failed to spot any **Hérons** (only **Pigeons** were visible). An obliging Dipper was in view feeding at the feeder, appropriately!



At the canal, a lone **Swan** was evidently hungry and one of our group obliged with some fat pellets, plenty of **Ducks** were around but they kept away for fear of a swan peck!

A very bold **Robin** begged for some food a little further along our way and was obliged, so we remained in very close proximity for some time and, **Wrens** there were aplenty.

We took a detour to the weir which was very loud after lots of heavy rain and where 4 or 5 **Grey Wagtails** were very active, a **Cormorant** put on a display and a **Dipper** swooped overhead.

By this time we were very hungry and ready for lunch so headed back.

Elaine Olsen

(Our thanks once again to Elaine for leading the walk and writing this report. The photo of the Swan is mine and the Cormorant by Anthony Matthews. Also it was good to see quite a few new people, including young families, at the November walk. Ed)



The Canal Towpath

There are a number of issues with the Towpath at the moment.

Due to the SSSI designation on the Glamorgan Canal, any remedial work has to be done with the consent of Natural Resources Wales (NRW). We have been working closely with NRW on this and should have a management agreement in place shortly which will enable works to take place.

In the meantime, there has been a particular section where issues have meant that water is overtopping the canal bank and flowing over the path which is of considerable concern to us. We have agreed with NRW that this remedial work can take place in advance of the main agreement, so work to repair this will be taking place shortly.

Nicola Hutchinson
Conservation Officer

October 5th - the Friends Open Day at Forest Farm

Apples, Apples, Apples! - from our orchard



SOME of the apples.
Anthony and Christine helped their many
willing helpers to use
the apple press.

What an amazing day we had. We estimated about 400 people came (some said more!). Unfortunately, the photos were taken early and don't give an idea of how busy it was, but Laura, who took the photographs, had a big area to cover AND was also a helper. Once it got really busy, it was 'all hands on deck'.

In the barn
were the
apple
pressing,
willow working
and crafts on
sale (Seren
willow).



The RSPB
were there
too and had
a very busy
time with
lots of
children
finding
plenty of
interest.



Above: Jenny Turner with the
lovely fruit cake with our logo on.
She and Steve brought it along (as
they have done in previous years).

Dave and James were there
too demonstrating wood
turning and selling a range of
examples of their work.



September 2019 Newsletter



Outside was the ever popular pond dipping - spot the newt! Also, our visitors were able to walk through to the **old milking parlour** to view 6 different craft stalls.

...and then there was the walk to the Radyr hydro scheme. Martin led about 30 visitors there where they had a special opportunity to go inside the turbine hall. Richie Cornock from the Parks Dept was present to give visitors information and answer questions. *(This photo below was taken in 2016, before the barrier to stop people swimming near the turbines!!!)*



Right: Knitwhits raising money for The City Hospice



Left: Diane Jones with her woolcraft.

Below: The editor's Mum's cards, raising money for Alzheimer's



Below: Nick Mensikov from the Welsh Beekeepers Assn. with a variety of products.



And finally, in the **Wardens' Centre** were ...



A small model railway kept children (of all ages) amused. Thanks to Nigel, Rod and Albyn from Cardiff Model Engineering Society for operating it.



Jean Price selling framed pressed leaves.



Anna Thomas selling cushions, cards and all sorts of Christmas things.

... and last but not least, Pam and Wendy were on the go all day serving refreshments - and very welcome they were too!



You will realise that a lot of work goes into organising our Open Day, so special thanks to the Committee, the Rangers and especially to Christine, Wendy and Pam who gave so much of their time voluntarily.

However, it wouldn't have been a success without you! Thank you for coming and we hope you enjoyed your day. Next year marks a special anniversary for us, 30 years of the Friends of Forest Farm!

Fungi

It is a good year for Fungi apparently. The wet spring, warm summer and sudden drop in temperature have resulted in "a bumper season for mushrooms" according to the BBC website (on 5th November). It was reporting on the rarest of grassland fungi in the UK, the **Clavaria zollingeri** or "violet coral" which is part of the waxcap fungi, more commonly appearing in scarlet, white or gold. This rare fungus, only seen for a few days a year, has been found, not in Forest Farm (sadly), but on the Llyn Pensiyn, Gwynedd.

However, some unusual fungi **have** been spotted recently on Forest Farm. **Cliff Woodhead** sent a photograph of a **Wrinkled Peach fungus (Rhodotus palmatus)** he saw late October near Radyr weir. The season in Britain and Ireland is July - November. Its habitat is on well-rotted hardwood trunks and branches, usually of fallen elms but occasionally on other broadleaf timber. The cap can be 5 - 10cms across.



Have you heard of or ever seen a **Pipe Club fungus (Macrotyphula juncea)**? **Gareth Stamp**, the Ranger found some in Forest Farm - and here is his photo.

Fungi are not at the forefront of our minds, but there are some lovely ones to be seen

on the Reserve and we have had photos before from time to time. I remember a fantastic talk we had from Professor Lynn Boddy back in January 2015 about fungi (a report was in FFNL95).

I enquired about the possibility of a walk to look at fungi on the Reserve. but their appearance is highly weather dependent so it's not really feasible to schedule something in advance. However, I did ask the Rangers to consider holding an ad hoc 'tour' in the future if conditions were right and advertise it through our website and other social media. It would be short notice, but better than nothing. Watch this space ...

Sheila Austin



Your photos for a calendar ?

One of the regular photographers at Forest Farm, Colin Harvey, suggested contributing to a calendar to help celebrate the Friends 30th anniversary next year. Some of the other photographers were keen on the idea as well, but this would be open to members and visitors as well.

The Committee would source possible printers for costs (you never know someone might reduce the cost for us, or sponsor it ...).

We would want the photos **to depict the Nature Reserve through the seasons**. Depending on the number of contributed photographs, our idea is that a shortlisted number be displayed at the Ranger's Summer Fair at Forest Farm in June. Visitors would make their choices (as some supermarkets where tokens to choose a charity) but we would ask them to place **coins** to indicate their favourite photo/s. (This would raise some money for the Friends too.) The photographs with the most money would be selected. **In order for this to work, there would need to be more than one photo to represent each month of course.**

The 2021 calendar would then be available for sale from 3rd October 2020, the Friends Open Day, and for the rest of the year.

Friends of St Mary's Gardens

(Members will be aware that we have featured St Mary's Gardens, Old Church Rd Whitchurch in our newsletter from time to time. The gardens now have their own Friends group. Read on ...)

The recently-formed Friends of St Mary's Gardens want to protect and restore this historic site off Old Church Road in Whitchurch. For 500 years, this site was where the local church and graveyard stood. When St Mary's Church was rebuilt on the present larger site, it became neglected until, in the 1970's, Cardiff Council Parks Department adopted it and turned it into a peaceful Public Gardens and arboretum – and then seemed to forget about it.

In 2017 Whitchurch WI became concerned that the Gardens had become a neglected trouble spot. It set up a local Volunteers' group that has met monthly under the supervision of Parks' Department Ranger, Richard Roberts, to give the Gardens some TLC. The occasional attendance by Volunteers from Forest Farm has been greatly appreciated.

What have we been doing?

A temporary water butt has been put in place, compost bins constructed, benches repaired and painted and, of course, weeding, grubbing out, path sweeping and planting. The last included bulbs and some plants and shrubs - all donations from Volunteers. It was decided that the gardens needed items such as description boards and brochures, a proper water butt, more bulbs and all the other equipment. This would have been provided by public funding in more enlightened times. So, because the Volunteers could see no other way of financing much, a Friends' Group was formed last year with a small committee. It was charged with the task of applying for funding.

Volunteering and Membership

The Committee decided that a Membership subscription of £5 per annum should be charged for Individual, Family or Group/Organisation Membership. *Having Members is important as it is a criterion taken into consideration when applying for Funding. However, it is not necessary for a Volunteer to be a Member any more then it is necessary for Member to work as a Volunteer in the Gardens. Both are integral to the enterprise.*



The September Working Party. Photo from Zoe Pearce.

Currently, Membership stands at 23 and the Committee's next task is to build on this. If you are interested in knowing more about St Mary's Gardens or becoming a Volunteer and/or a Member, please contact:

saintmarysgardens@gmail.com or
Facebook (the link is www.facebook.com/oldchurchgarden)

In any case, why not visit The Gardens to find out if you share the feeling that they are a special place that should be preserved.

Zoe Pearce

Cliff Woodhead sent me some lovely photos of Kingfishers taken in June after fledging.

I am sorry not to have space for them here but WILL put them in the next edition. Ed.

Trees

You may be interested in the following:-

1. A survey around trees within Cardiff.
<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/cardTrees>
2. About free trees
<https://www.tcv.org.uk/communities/i-dig-trees?>

Ground Works In the 'Middle Section'

At the Open Day, I took the walk around the Reserve ending at the water turbine at Radyr Weir

I took the route between Longwood Drive and the M4 known as the Middle Section

Alongside the path we found a number of Dormouse nest boxes. This is for a survey as part of one being undertaken by Welsh Water concerning the major sewer that crosses Forest Farm. (you may be aware of the sewer or even smelled it!)

It has been rumoured that there are Dormice at Forest Farm, but no actual evidence has ever been found - hence this survey.

At the moment it is not clear if the problem can be resolved without the need for any excavations.

We will keep you informed of any developments

Martin Chamberlain



Drew Davies

This photograph of a Kingfisher was taken by Drew Davies, obviously a very talented photographer. It was taken from Drew's Facebook page with the kind permission of his parents, Keith and Marion.



Drew was one of many photographers who are drawn to Forest Farm Nature Reserve. He loved it there and took a lot of excellent photographs (see <https://www.flickr.com/photos/drewdaviesphotography>). Very sadly, Drew passed away around the time that one of our bird hides was burned down.

Almost immediately, his parents sent a very generous cheque for £500 for the fund to build a new hide as Drew had loved the place so much. No only that, but at his funeral, donations in his memory were collected for Forest Farm.

The Committee, and I am sure our members, photographers and visitors to Forest Farm Nature Reserve offer our sincere thanks to Keith and Marion. The new hide will be a lasting tribute to Drew.

It may also be of interest to those who knew him that the National Botanic Gardens Wales have started an online auction to put a bench in his name at the Bird of Prey Centre where he took a lot of his pictures. A local organisation called Amman Valley sheds have offered to make the bench. The link for the auction is www.jumblebee.co.uk/andrewdavies.

Sheila Austin

Friends of Forest Farm Winter Talks - see events for details

January 15th 2020

Rosie James:

Parks during and after World War 1

March 18th 2020

A talk by Richard Tyler,

Chairman of the Cambrian Way Trust

Velindre - New Cancer Centre

Unfortunately, it will be too late for this newsletter, but this is just to let you know that a meeting is scheduled between Velindre NHS Trust and members of our Executive Committee for 5th December.

It is quite a while since there was a meeting, so we are looking forward to hearing the latest position on this development.

Let's hope the weather isn't like this for the **Post Christmas Walk - 5th January 2020.**
See events



For a change - a view. A snowy picture from the hide (March 2018) taken by Jon Wallis .

Bike Rack at Forest Farm

You will be pleased to hear that there is going to be a bike stand at Forest Farm, somewhere in the vicinity of the Wardens' Centre.

With the Taff trail adjoining the Reserve, and in line with reducing the use of cars, this is a very welcome development.

The Forest Farm Giant

Many of you will have seen this near the car park. It is one of the great examples we are privileged to have on the Reserve of the artistry of chain saw sculpture by Chris Wood.

Originally it had a fox at the feet of the giant, but this 'disappeared'.

On a recent visit there I was delighted to see a badger in its place and took these photos.

It's difficult to show the scale in photographs. Why don't you go to see this and all the sculptures? Take the children - or grandchildren - the next time you visit the Reserve.

Sheila Austin



Events Dec 2019 - mid March 2020

DATE	EVENT
DECEMBER	
Sun 8th Dec 10.00 - 13.00	Friends Volunteering Event. ALL WELCOME. Details will be on our our Facebook page or Contact Martin on 07952 926145. Meet at the Wardens Centre, Forest Farm Rd Whitchurch. CF14 7JJ
Sun 15th Dec 10.00 - 12.00	Cardiff Wildlife Detectives for children aged 8-12. Conservation task at Forest Farm, followed by hot chocolate! For more details email Gareth at gstamp@cardiff.gov.uk or phone Community Rangers on 029 2044 5903
Sat 21st Dec 10.00 - 12.30	Forget about the hassle of Christmas for a couple of hours. Come along to our Nature Ramble. Meet at the Wardens Centre Forest Farm Road, Whitchurch. CF14 7JJ for a gentle ramble around the Reserve to see the wildlife. Bring your binoculars if you have them. ALL WELCOME.

Events December 2019 - mid March 2020 continued

DATE	EVENT
JANUARY 2020	
Sun 5th Jan 10.00	A Post-Christmas Walk. Walk off those calories! Join Martin for a couple of hours around the Reserve. ALL WELCOME. Meet at the Wardens' Centre, Forest Farm Rd Whitchurch. CF14 7JJ
Sun 12th Jan 10.00 - 13.00	Friends Volunteering Event. ALL WELCOME. Details will be on our our Facebook page or Contact Martin on 07952 926145. Meet at the Wardens Centre, Forest Farm Rd Whitchurch. CF14 7JJ
Wed 15th Jan 19.30	Friends Evening Talk. "Parks during and after World War 1" by Rosie James. At Ararat Centre for the Community, Whitchurch, CF14 1PT. Refreshments available. ALL WELCOME.
Sat 18th Jan 10.00 - 12.30	Nature Ramble. Meet at the Wardens Centre Forest Farm Road, Whitchurch. CF14 7JJ for a gentle ramble around the Reserve to see the wildlife. Bring your binoculars if you have them. ALL WELCOME.
Sun 19th Jan 10.00 - 12.00	Cardiff Wildlife Detectives for children aged 8-12. Beach clean (location to be confirmed) For more details email Gareth at gstamp@cardiff.gov.uk or phone Community Rangers on 029 2044 5903
FEBRUARY	
Sun 9th Feb 10.00 - 13.00	Friends Volunteering Event. ALL WELCOME. Details will be on our our Facebook page or Contact Martin on 07952 926145. Meet at the Wardens Centre, Forest Farm Rd Whitchurch. CF14 7JJ
Sat 15th Feb 10.00 - 12.30	Nature Ramble. Meet at the Wardens Centre Forest Farm Road, Whitchurch. CF14 7JJ for a gentle ramble around the Reserve to see the wildlife. Bring your binoculars if you have them. ALL WELCOME.
Sun 16th Feb 10.00 - 12.00	Cardiff Wildlife Detectives for children aged 8-12. Winter bird spotting at Cardiff Bay Wetland Reserve. For more details email Gareth at gstamp@cardiff.gov.uk or phone Community Rangers on 029 2044 5903
MARCH	
Sun 8th Mar 10.00 - 13.00	Friends Volunteering Event. ALL WELCOME. Details will be on our our Facebook page or Contact Martin on 07952 926145. Meet at the Wardens Centre, Forest Farm Rd Whitchurch. CF14 7JJ
Sun 15th Mar 10.00 - 12.00	Cardiff Wildlife Detectives for children aged 8-12. Forest Schools Taster at Forest Farm. For more details email Gareth at gstamp@cardiff.gov.uk or phone Community Rangers on 029 2044 5903
Wed 18th Mar 19.30	Friends Evening Talk. Richard Tyler, Chairman of the Cambrian Way Trust will be giving a talk and power point presentation At Ararat Centre for the Community, Whitchurch, CF14 1PT. Refreshments available. ALL WELCOME.
Sat 21st Mar 10.00 - 12.30	Nature Ramble. Meet at the Wardens Centre Forest Farm Road, Whitchurch. CF14 7JJ for a gentle ramble around the Reserve to see the wildlife. Bring your binoculars if you have them. ALL WELCOME.

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The Editor wishes to state that all views expressed by contributors are their own, as is the responsibility for them.