



Friends

of FOREST FARM COUNTRY PARK
and GLAMORGANSHIRE CANAL
LOCAL NATURE RESERVE

Issue No: 107

March 2018

Website: forestfarm.org.uk

Postcode: CF14 7JJ

'Friends' Volunteering Sunday 11th February.

Remembering former Committee members

Have you noticed two benches placed in the form of a 'T' close to Forest Lock? They are in memory of our former Chairman Edward Owen Edwards known to us all as Ted.

In the coming months, this area will be tidied and planted up and a plaque placed on the benches.



John Harding
Chairman



A bright, dry, cold morning but a happy band of volunteers keeping warm and busy. Why don't you join them next month?

Read more on Page 8.

Old Plans of Forest Farm Nature Reserve

We are most grateful to Catherine and Jonathon, daughter and son of Denis Davies, former Secretary of the Friends of Forest Farm, for the donation of old plans of the Nature Reserve.

These are plans, and some copies with notes, of the Nature Reserve and surrounding area dating from June 1987 to March 1993. This period encompassed various threats to the Reserve from housing and industrial development.

The Committee will be able to display the plans at the Wardens' Centre and I am sure they will be of interest to our members.

Sheila Austin

Velindre new Cancer Centre

As you know, at the December 2017 Planning Meeting of Cardiff County Council, outline planning permission was unanimously granted for the new Velindre Hospital on the Whitchurch Hospital Meadows. We want to keep you as up to date as we can about this subject which has taken up so much of our time and attention recently. Please read Martin's article on page 11

Editorial,

There is always something happening at Forest Farm. Have you seen the Hawfinch? Did you notice the work done by the Rangers and Volunteers? Have you visited the Red Giant and the much improved car park area? There are plenty of reasons to come along to the Reserve, not least the improving weather.

There are definite signs of Spring now (hooray), not only flowers and birds, but also the events. Spring (Foods of the Forest) and even Summer - (Rangers Wildlife Festival and the Friends Coach trip). All of these are definitely worth you coming along - see events pp11/12.

The evening talks have been great but are coming to an end in March and April sees our AGM. That is not the only 'business' in hand at present. You will gather from various articles that some routine "official" tasks are being addressed by the Committee; data protection and the Constitution. We are also aware of numerous other things we would like to do, such as being more proactive with seeking grants and funds. We really do need some assistance, so if you can help, please get in touch.

Thank you to all contributors (including this time a 'letter to the Editor'), especially the regular ones and the photographers, It's greatly appreciated by me and I'm sure all of you.

Sheila Austin

Data Protection

Although we are a volunteer group, we still have to follow the legal requirements concerning data protection.

We therefore have to advise our members that we hold the following data:-

- Your Name and address
- Your Email address if supplied
- The membership start and renewal date
- How you paid for your membership

This information enables us to issue our newsletters and send reminders when your membership is due. **The data is kept secure and is, and will not, be shared with any other organisation.**

If you have any concerns over how we manage your data, please contact me.

m.chamberlain1@ntlworld.com

**Martin Chamberlain
Secretary**

Ideas?

If you have any ideas or suggestions for topics for our next series of **Winter talks**, please let us know. We have four speakers to find.

We are starting the process of arranging the 2018/9 programme now. Contact the editor or Martin (see above) or any of the committee. We'd be glad to hear from you.

Deadline for articles for next newsletter - 8th May 2018

See back page for contact details

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Reserve Report **Alec Stewart - Ranger**

Work this Winter has not slowed down with coppicing and scrub clearance on various parts of the Reserve as the main tasks. This has been undertaken by the Friends, Greendays, various other volunteers and the Rangers.

This year, we carried out some work in the wetlands between the first and second hides - it was last done 7 years back and needed to be done again to keep the open aspect of the wetland. New signage and interpretation has now been installed in the car park and around the Warden Centre, including information on Mary Gillham's memorial area (in front of the old stable area). The next stage is to replace and update the signage on the rest of the Reserve; ideally I would like to put some interpretation in the hides as well.

More work has been completed in the car park area with new play equipment installed and a path linking to the road to take people through the area. This is being well used and the Red Giant seems to be a big attraction. It's great that a dead tree has been given a new lease of life. Bulbs such as wild daffodil, bluebell and snowdrops were planted in and around this area and we should see some of these emerging in the Spring and is part of generally making the carpark area a more inviting place to be.

The garden area and around the Warden Centre is slowly taking shape and, hopefully, we will have some new wildflower borders to admire in the Summer. The preparation work has begun on these with a view to seeding them in the spring. Unfortunately we have had some graffiti sprayed on to the walls of the hide. As the weather gets warmer and dryer, we will paint over this. If anyone sees anything like this happening or any other forms of vandalism or anti-social behaviour, could they please ring 101 and report it. This helps to log problems on the system and we get patrols from the police calling in to check the site.



Hawfinch. Photo by Colin Harvey

The usual culprits in the form of the wildlife have been around with the Kingfisher, Snipe, Water Rail, Sparrowhawk, Jays and assorted woodland birds all being present.

The highlight of the winter wildlife was the

Hawfinch with 3 being seen together feeding on the maple trees near the allotments and behind the farm buildings.

Already the signs of spring have started with the hazel full of catkins, the snowdrops in full flower and the woodpeckers drumming.

Spring is not far off and I for one cannot wait!



Above: Green Woodpecker Below: Water Rail
Both photos by Cliff Woodhead



Foods of the Forest

Ranger Raj Chettri

The Ranger Service run annual events and guided walks throughout the year for the public. One of the events is called the Foods of the Forest. It is about what natural plants and fruits can be incorporated into culinary recipes. Traditionally, foraging from the wild used to be a common practice right from the early dawn of human history from the times of the hunter gatherers to the medieval ages. In the modern times it was basically the preserve of the SAS and Bear Grylls, until, in our time, it has become quite popular.



Above: Blackberries of course
Right: Nettle



This event introduces the public to the various natural ingredients found around the hedgerows, meadows and woodlands. Nicola Hutchinson, the Conservation Officer, takes on the Chef's role and introduces some very tasty and original recipes which over the years have been a great hit with the public.

(The photos from the Autumn season were taken by Raj.

*The **Spring 'Foods of the Forest'** will take place on Wednesday 9th May 2018, so do come along and join us for a lovely evening. See Events P12 for details. Ed)*

The Mary Gillham Archive Project ...

Is now live!

Take a look - its amazing! There is a biography, a timeline, Mary's international travels, information about to the many resources used and about the project itself. Included throughout are *a lot of links and photographs.*

It is a wonderful record of a local, remarkable naturalist, teacher and writer who was instrumental in setting up Forest Farm Nature Reserve, (among others), and was a founder member of the 'Friends'.

At the time of writing there were still a few things to finish up but broadly speaking it is all there.

www.marygillhamarchiveproject.com

Very many thanks to Dr. Al Reed and the many volunteers who helped with this project.

Sheila Austin

Changes to our constitution

The Friends of Forest Farm are now in their 28th year and, apart from minor amendments, our constitution has not been revised since the early days. Also, the Council now have a 'model' Constitution for all the Friends groups in Cardiff which we need to consider.

The Committee will be working on making the changes for current circumstances which need to be addressed. There is insufficient time now before the 2018 AGM to bring it forward for consideration, as it would have had to go out with this newsletter, this will happen in April 2019 with you being able to have the necessary notice.

**FRIENDS OF FOREST FARM ANNUAL COACH TRIP 2018
TO WESTONBIRT ARBORETUM, TETBURY and MALMESBURY
ON SATURDAY 23RD JUNE 2018**

8.30 am. Coach will park outside the **side entrance of Bethany Baptist Church** in Heol Uchaf, Rhiwbina (CF14 6SS). Cars can be parked in the side road just across Heol Llanishen Fach.

8.45 am. Depart and travel to the entrance of the Deri Inn car park.

8.50 am. Pick up at **the Deri Inn**; then along Heol Y Deri to the lay-by in front of Canolfan Beulah.

8.55 am. Pick up **Canolfan Beulah** and then via the Monico lights, to Penlline Road, outside Whitchurch High School and the Royal British Legion.

9.05 am. Pick up at **Whitchurch High School** then on to the bus stop opposite the Holly Bush at Coryton.

9.10 am. Last pick up at the Holly Bush and travel direct to **WESTONBIRT**.

10.30 am. We arrive at **Westonbirt Arboretum** where there are toilet/disabled facilities and a restaurant/café. The rest of the morning will be at your leisure. We meet up again at 1.00pm at the same location where you were dropped off. However we have also organised an optional 90 min. guided tour (£2) around the older part of the Arboretum which at that time will have a very good display of Magnolias. This tour starts at 11am giving you time to use the facilities and have refreshments in the café.

1pm. Coach departs to travel 4 miles to the lovely town of **TETBURY** arriving at 1.10pm. Tetbury is an architectural gem with many of its former wool merchant houses looking as they did 300 years ago. It has many specialist shops including over 20 selling antiques. The 1780 Parish church with its renovated 18th century interior and famous spire will be open on the day. Not to be missed are the Chipping Steps which have extensive floral displays provided by local residents and the Town Council.

3.15pm. Coach will pick us up at the same location as where we were dropped off and take us the 6 miles to **MALMESBURY** where we shall arrive at 3.30pm. Malmesbury known as the Queen of the Hilltop towns is surrounded by the river Avon. It has a 7th century Abbey which adjoins the famous Abbey House gardens. It is lovely to walk along the honey coloured stoned streets whilst admiring the medieval street scene, including England's oldest hotel the Old Bell. The Abbey café provides a highly recommended cream tea for visitors (please get there by 4.30pm so as not to be late for the coach return).

5.30pm. Coach departs from the same location as where we were dropped off, and we travel back direct to our Whitchurch and Rhiwbina pick up locations. **We expect to be back around 6.50pm**

If you would like to come on this trip please **complete the tear off slip below** and send it, together **with your cheque** made out to The Friends of Forest Farm, to Mr. D.Hockridge at 5, Clos Cromwell, Rhiwbina, Cardiff. CF14 6QN, **together with a STAMPED, self-addressed envelope**, AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. Seats will be allocated in the order of your booking date. **Any queries please contact Duncan** by telephone (Cardiff 20626111) or email (duncan3@hotmail.co.uk). All are welcome. Members of the Probud Club of Cardiff West will be joining us on this trip as usual. You will receive confirmation of your booking, with your seat numbers.

.....Tear off slip.....Tear off slip.....Tear off slip

WESTONBIRT ARBORETUM, TETBURY AND MALMESBURY.
SATURDAY 23RD June 2018.

Name Address

Post Code Tele Email

Please book me the following places for this coach trip:-

-No. Adult/s **on the coach** at £14. = £.....
-No. Child/ren (under 15) **on the coach** at £10. = £.....
-No. Adult/s, **group discount entry charge** to the ARBORETUM at £8. = £.....
-No. Child/ren, **group discount entry charge** to the ARBORETUM at £2. = £.....
-No. **Optional guided tour** around the old part of the Arboretum at £2. = £.....
-No. **Optional cream tea** in Malmesbury Abbey Cafe at £6.00 = £.....
- I enclose my cheque made payable to Friends of Forest Farm. TOTAL = £.....

I /we wish to be picked up at Bethany**, the Deri**, Canolfan Beulah**, the High School**, the Holly Bush**. ****Please circle desired pick up location**.**

Please list the names and addresses of persons, other than yourself, who you are booking for, on the reverse of this form. Please remember to enclose a stamped S.A.E. for confirmation.

Membership

A very warm welcome to the 6 new members who have recently joined via pay pal, allowing us to keep our membership to 400.

Unfortunately, there have been several deaths among our members and some renewals are outstanding, so numbers have not increased this time.

Quite a few Friends use contact with the Committee at events, the evening meetings/A.G.M. in April, as the opportunity to renew their subscriptions with cash. You can of course also send a cheque made out to the "Friends of Forest Farm " or use Paypal. With the latter, you are reminded when renewal is due, **but please note**, the subscription automatically renews if you do nothing. We are amending our Membership forms to make this quite clear to people.

Pauline Fisher
Membership Secretary

Our evening talks

Over the years we have had some excellent speakers on a wide range of subjects.

The next talk on **21st March** is no exception. Its about **Bats** and is given by **Lea Likozar – Senior Ecologist (Protected Species Specialist)**.

Do come along and hear it - 7.30 p.m. at Ararat Centre for the Community, the Common, Whitchurch.

(By the way, the BBC Radio 4 programme 'In our Time" on 15th February was about Fungi and one of the programme's experts was Professor Lynne Boddy who also gave a talk to the Friends a couple of years ago.)

Are you any good with a computer and researching?

We keep hearing about funding for which we could apply - but need someone with some time and expertise to follow through on various sources of funding out there.

Members of the Committee will be available to assist where necessary.

It's something you can do at home and in your own time, and it would REALLY help the Reserve when other funding has dried up.

If you can help, please get in touch with us.

Many thanks



Nuthatch
on a hide 'window ledge'
Photo: Tom Olsen

Space for names and addresses for the coach trip.



Grass snake swimming in one of hide ponds. Photo: Colin Harvey

Letter to the Editor

Dear Friends of Forest Farm,

Whilst on the January monthly bird walk, I was dismayed to see that on the left hand side at the second bird hide, trees and rushes had been cut back drastically. I wonder what is the rationale behind such a dramatic assault on the snipe habitat? I am not well-informed in the favoured environment of snipe, but they certainly appeared to be content when they were surrounded on three sides by the rushes last year, as the high numbers of snipe confirmed. Will they return now that they are completely exposed on one of the three sides?

Previously, I was dismayed to see on the right hand side of the first hide many mature trees (among which I think were greengage, an unusual and pleasing sight in the wild) were removed. I heard this was to create an open area for birds to fly in. It's been a few years and I for one have seen no difference in bird activity or observable species.

Are the requirements of the photographers being prioritised over the needs of the wildlife or am I getting too cynical in my old age?

Very kind regards,
Elaine Olsen
Member

(I asked the Ranger service for a response to this and other comments expressed to me by a couple of people that the redwood did not look diseased. Everyone I have spoken to does love the giant though! Ed.)

There is planning and expertise in carrying out the work on the Reserve. Snipe are a wader and wetland species. They prefer and need open wet habitat with good lines of sight to spot predators such as sparrowhawk. The clearance work is to produce such a habitat and was last done seven years ago and is the normal conservation management in place for the wetland. The snipe have not left and are still to be seen along with water rail, heron, moorhen and other species including the kingfisher. This work is certainly not performed for any other reason than the good management of the site for wildlife and people.

The mature trees on the right were supposed to be a hedge as a boundary, but had been let grow into mature trees. These further shade out the wetland and reduce floral growth, and so we have attempted to return this to a thick boundary hedge. This will take a few years to establish. Sometimes we may put out information but we can not keep doing this for every small task we carry out - it is simply too time consuming.

As to the carving of the giant out of the redwood. This tree was dead and dangerous and in an area which would put the public at risk and so had to be removed. We decided to do something that would be beneficial. I have a picture of the tree showing it is dead; when the carver did his work. He had to patch and fill a large rotten area on the back of the sculpture.

I hope this will answer the questions raised.

Regards
Alec Stewart



The great carving of the giant. It's a pity the printed copy is not in colour so you can get the full effect. You'll have to go and see it!

The giant and the other 'creatures' in the area adjacent to the car park are the work of **Chris Wood Wood Art Works of Newport.**

'Friends' volunteer Day, Sunday February 11th



We were delighted to welcome a couple of new faces among the 15 who attended the February 'Friends' volunteering session. It was a sunny, if chilly, morning and we enjoyed cutting down rampaging buddleia in the 'middle section' of Forest Farm Nature Reserve (between Longwood Drive and the motorway).

Whilst buddleia is colourful, and attracts butterflies and other insects, it's considered an invasive species that out-competes surrounding vegetation. The cut branches will be turned into woodchips, which will be used around the Reserve.

We also came across a couple of patches of Scarlet Elfcup fungus (*Sarcosypha coccinea*).



(My thanks to **Jon Wallis** for the information and photographs.

Don't forget, **second** Sunday monthly 10.00, meet at the Wardens Centre Forest Farm Rd Whitchurch CF14 7JJ. Also, you can check out the Facebook page of our website nearer the time to find out what the task for the day is. Ed)

Ranger Events at Forest Farm Nature Reserve in May

Two great events - see Events P12 for details

"Foods of the Forest "
Wednesday May 9th 6p.m.

"Summer Wildlife Festival "
Saturday 26th May 10a.m. - 4 p.m.

ALL WELCOME.

Wardens' Centre, Forest Farm Rd. CF14 7JJ

As previously mentioned in this newsletter, there are to be *notices in the bird hides* to make users aware that the Friends Nature Walks around the Reserve (3rd Saturday, monthly) will be visiting them. The walks start at 10.00 a.m. the Wardens Centre and finish back there around 12.30.

'Wildlife Crime' - Evening Talk by P.C Goulding

17th Jan 2018

PC Mark Goulding is responsible for co-ordinating wildlife crime across South Wales police forces and he assists with more complex cases. There are six national priorities for UK wildlife crime. In South Wales, currently the most important are bird crime, poaching, habitat destruction and CITES (illegal trade in endangered species – e.g ivory, rhino horn). The police rely on members of the public reporting possible crimes and a phone number is given at the end of the article.

Bird crime includes poisoning birds of prey, including owls, by gamekeepers and pigeon fanciers. Sometimes, dead birds are used as bait and pegged out with the breast opened to allow insecticide to be placed inside the bird. Foxes, badgers, weasels etc are also poisoned. Egg collecting is still prevalent with birds of prey the main victims.

Reducing badger baiting has been a success story. The badger population in South Wales is very healthy, but certain individuals **train dogs to fight badgers**, both of which are often badly injured. The dogs are not taken to vets, which would lead to police enquiries, so are treated at home or killed. Sometimes these dead badgers are left by the road side - but the injuries are not typical of "road kill". One tactic the wildlife police have is to treat badger sets with "smart" water (containing tiny, coded, micro-dot particles). These get everywhere, on the dog, clothes, car seats etc. Suspect individuals can be checked for evidence. As a result of several prosecutions, the incidence has dropped dramatically, though the problem seems to have moved to England.

Bats are a protected species and some are unique to Wales. Unscrupulous developers have been known to destroy bat roosts in isolated areas as providing alternative roosts can be expensive.

Deer poaching is another problem area. Fines for poaching have been small; large scale poaching can be very profitable. One gang were killing about 30 every weekend. The "Proceeds of Crime" Act has increased penalties and was applied when the gang were caught. They were also banned from driving for three years and from owning a firearm for life (penalty for infringement is five years in prison).

"**Lamping**" (shooting rabbits at night by causing them to freeze in a light beam) and illegal ferreting are also problems often targeting isolated areas. The perpetrators are difficult to catch but, by involving local people and using a drone, they have had some success. The people involved can be matched against police files of criminals if a photo can be obtained of a suspect's face by the drone.

Fox hunting legislation is very complex. **Illegal fox hunting** usually takes place on private land remote from public access. Prosecutions are possible e.g. where hunts use a dead fox as a scent drag instead of aniseed.

As an example of the problem of **non-native species**, P.C. Goulding told us about unwanted pet terrapins being left in Roath Park Lake. They attack the chicks and cause other damage. Though they can survive our winters, the climate is too cold for them to breed, so hopefully the problem will die out as keeping them is now much less popular. Signal crayfish are another species which attack and replace native crayfish and other native creatures in our watercourses. They are very difficult and expensive to eradicate, but so far have not spread to South Wales.

CITES – the legislation to protect endangered species is also a police matter. A Cardiff man legally bought rhino horn at a UK auction for £20,000. He then tried to (illegally) export it to China - it was seized by the police. Today, it is more valuable than gold. Other cases have involved smuggling e.g. rare monkeys.

We also heard (not related to CITES) that P.C. Goulding was called to a snake found in the engine compartment of a car. Unbeknown to the driver, he had driven with it to South Wales from the Midlands. The snake was harmless and the end of the story was that the man drove back with it as it turned out to be a corn snake which belonged to one of his neighbours!

Continued on next page

Wildlife Crime - continued

Locally, police are currently looking at illegal killing of birds by poisoning and shooting (even shooting gulls and pigeon needs a licence) and at illegal fishing along the River Taff. They rely on the public and volunteers to be their eyes and ears. Only 6 of 13 part time posts in South Wales are currently filled, so if you spot any wildlife crime or have any information, do contact P.C. 3626 Mark Goulding 0754 003790.

The talk was well attended on what was a cold and wet night. The range of duties and breadth of knowledge of this wildlife crime officer were impressive. It was an interesting and informative talk and generated quite a few questions.

Albyn Austin

Hives at Forest Farm

We had an early, glorious spring last year and the bees took full advantage. Although the rest of the summer was somewhat erratic weather-wise, the bees worked hard and foraged when it was warm enough.

Although the honey bees will fly over three miles to forage, with the hives situated in the Friends' Orchard, and also being surrounded by wild flowers, blackberries etc., they always have a constant supply of food and water near by.

On the Friends Open Day in October, our honey was for sale. We now have numerous members who buy it each year, some of whom even stock pile, so that they have enough for many months to come. Over 100 lbs of honey from my hives and especially those of Peter was sold either at our Open Day or has been purchased since. Let's hope the bees keep up their good work and that 2018 will be equally as productive.

All the hives were given their winter check to make sure the bees have enough food to keep them going through the winter. We both continue to monitor them over the coming months, but we will not open the hives again until Spring, when the season will start over again. Hope they enjoy their well deserved rest.

Pauline Fisher



Are you interested in a nest box survey?

We need up to 4 people to build, erect, map and survey nest boxes - Ranger help supplied! We want to start this later in the year, but it would be good to know if anyone is interested in volunteering to do this. Its not something that has to be done at a weekend.

If you think you could help, do please get in touch with Martin Chamberlain (07952 926145) or myself (contact details on back page).

Thank you.

Sheila Austin

Velindre New Hospital - update

The project now moves to the next stage, with planning for the construction of the access roads and the preparation of the detailed planning application.

Throughout the initial planning application, the Committee have been in discussions with the Trust and the Council. As we have previously stated, in an ideal world, we would have wanted the Meadows to be part of the Reserve but, with the existing planning permission already in place, this was not possible. We feel that, after listening to the views of ALL our members, we have obtained the best possible outcome but are fully aware that the loss of the meadows is deeply disappointing to many of our members. including ourselves.

However, we must deal with the situation we now have. Some of the Committee were able to meet with representatives of the Trust on 21st February. It is very early days, but we started by going over the concerns we raised with the Council about this development and listening to the mitigation measures which have been built in. This is an ongoing process.

As I write this article, a legal document between the Trust and the Council is being prepared concerning the Section 106 agreement. These are legal agreements between Local Authorities and developers and are linked to planning permissions and can also be known as planning obligations. Section 106 agreements are drafted when it is considered that a development will have significant impacts on the local area that cannot be moderated by means of conditions attached to a planning decision. For the new Velindre Cancer Centre development, this agreement is a substantial amount of funding and is to be spent on Forest Farm Nature Reserve. It is based on work identified as necessary by the relevant Council departments. We will share the detail when it is available.

It is vital that there is a continuing dialogue (with the objective of ensuring that the Reserve, where possible, is protected) between the Friends, the Trust and the Council. We are committed to being involved in the detailed planning preparation and will keep you up to date.

Martin Chamberlain
Secretary

Events. March to June 2018

DATE	EVENT
MARCH	
Sun 11th March 10.00- 13.00	Friends Volunteering Event. ALL WELCOME. Contact Martin on 07952 926145. Meet at the Wardens Centre Forest Farm Rd Whitchurch. CF14 7JJ
Sat 17th March 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 18th March 10.00 - 12.00	Cardiff Wildlife Detectives for children aged 8-12. Wildlife Photography at Forest Farm. For more details email Gareth at gstamp@cardiff.gov.uk or phone Community Rangers on 029 2044 5903.
Wed 21st March 19.30	Evening talk. Bats by Lea Likozar – Senior Ecologist (Protected Species Specialist) . Meet at Ararat Centre of the Community, The Common, Whitchurch CF14 1PT. ALL WELCOME. Tea and biscuits.

Events. March to June 2018 continued

DATE	EVENT
APRIL	
Sun 8th April 10.00 - 13.00	Friends Volunteering Event. ALL WELCOME. Contact Martin on 07952 926145. Meet at the Wardens Centre, Forest Farm Rd Whitchurch. CF14 7JJ
Wed 18th April 19.30	Friends of Forest Farm. Evening of photos of Forest Farm throughout the year, followed by the AGM. Meet at Ararat Centre of the Community, The Common, Whitchurch CF14 1 PT. ALL WELCOME. Tea and biscuits.
Sat 21st April 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 22nd April 10.00 - 12.00	Cardiff Wildlife Detectives for children aged 8-12. Bird identification at Cardiff Bay Wetland Reserve. (Meet by the Boardwalk) For more details email Gareth at gstamp@cardiff.gov.uk or phone Community Rangers on 029 2044 5903.
MAY	
Wed 9th May 18.00	Foods of the Forest Take a pleasant stroll around Forest Farm Country Park with the Community Park Rangers and discover the tasty treats Mother Nature has in store at this time of year. Round off the walk by tasting some of the delicious delicacies. Meet at the Warden Centre, Forest Farm Road, Whitchurch, Cardiff, CF14 7JJ £4.50 per person Wheelchair accessible
Sun 13th May 10.00 - 13.00	Friends Volunteering Event. ALL WELCOME. Contact Martin on 07952 926145. Meet at the Wardens Centre, Forest Farm Rd , Whitchurch. CF14 7JJ
Sat 19th May 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
Sat 26th May 10.00 - 16.00	Summer Wildlife Festival at Forest Farm . Pond-dipping, bug hunting and bird spotting – this day of fun packed wildlife activities with the Community Park Rangers and RSPB Cymru is perfect for families. Watch a pop-up screening of the RSPB Boombox Caerdydd film, celebrating Cardiff’s green spaces. A day of family wild time with nature and a chance to explore, discover and relax. Meet at Forest Farm Conservation Centre, Forest Farm Road, Whitchurch, Cardiff. CF14 7JJ . Free activities and free parking available on site.
Sun 20th May 10.00 - 12.00	Cardiff Wildlife Detectives for children aged 8-12. River shuffle at Forest Farm. For more details email Gareth at gstamp@cardiff.gov.uk or phone Community Rangers on 029 2044 5903
JUNE	
Sun 10th June 10.00 - 13.00	Friends Volunteering Event. ALL WELCOME. Contact Martin on 07952 926145. Meet at the Wardens Centre Forest Farm Rd Whitchurch. CF14 7JJ
Sat 16th June 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
Sunday 17th June 10.00 - 12.00	Cardiff Wildlife Detectives for children aged 8-12. Tree idneigfication and activities (bark rubbing and tree games) at Thompson’s Park. (Meet at Main entrance Roomily Rd). For more details email Gareth at gstamp@cardiff.gov.uk or phone Community Rangers on 029 2044 5903
Sat 23rd June	Summer Coach trip to Westonbirt Arboretum, Tetbury and Malmesbury. See P.5 for details.

Published on behalf of The Friends of Forest Farm and Glamorganshire Canal Local Nature Reserve by Mrs Sheila Austin, 1 Heol Gwrgan, Whitchurch, Cardiff CF14 1PP Tel: 02920 612425 email: editor@forestfarm.org.uk