
FRIENDS of FOREST FARM COUNTRY PARK and Glamorganshire Canal Local Nature Reserve

EDITOR'S FORUM.

Newsletter No 4 - Christmas 1990

In bringing you this Christmas edition I am pleased to announce that the Friends are now well established, with approximately 90 members. Also your Steering Committee is beavering away on several important projects, as follows.

THE BUTTERFLY GARDEN.

Our Secretary, Mr Dennis Davies reports: The Friends, with the consent of the City Council, are creating a Butterfly Garden with footpaths and seating on the roadside near the Warden Centre.

The Garden will be sown and planted with species which encourage insects, particularly butterflies and related fauna.

Discussion with the Prince of Wales Committee has brought a Grant of £450 towards the purchase of the special wild flower seed, shrubs, etc. There are hopes that the balance needed to bring it to £800 will be provided by the Shell Better Britain Campaign.

Due to the hard work already put in by men, women and (Watch) children, the Autumn stage has been completed. However, it was achieved at a pace which suited the individual and with much fun and enjoyment.

Friendships are generated in the sharing of a common purpose. Every little helps and cheerful volunteers will be most welcome on the next stages. Your help will make for happy recollections when, in the future you sit in the Garden.

HEALTH LAND.

The Steering Committee have been made aware, and everyone should know of its concern, regarding the Draft Local Plan proposed by the City's planning authority.

Included in the Draft Plan is the building of approximately 180 residential Units covering 22.5 acres North of Whitchurch Hospital adjacent to the Glamorgan Canal Local Nature Reserve.

In view of the British telecom development and its consequence we are considering our strategy to protect this area.

The whole area of land teems with life and is rich in flora and fauna, which is there to be enjoyed by residents from the whole of Cardiff. These amenities require sensitive management and would be lost if development proceeds.

The question of access, too, is one which is fraught with consequences for local residents of Whitchurch North.


We will need, and look for, support from all levels in the community.


Reminders ... Monthly Walks - 2nd Sunday in the month (10.00 am - 12.00 noon) - starting at the Warden's Centre, will continue throughout the winter.



Don't forget that 'Fiver' is still on offer. Your opinion on when to hold the Summer Walks does not have to be a literary masterpiece.

Work Groups for the Butterfly Garden.

These have been arranged under the supervision of Warden Mike Wiley, as follows:

 Saturday 26th January 1991 - 10.00 am - 12.00 noon. Reconstruction work around site

Saturday 6th April 1991 - 10.00 am - 12.00 noon. Seed sowing - grass and wild-flower mix. 

 If you can join us it will be helpful to ring Dennis Davies on Cardiff 691051 a couple of days before the Work Group date. 

FRIENDS MEETING at BETHEL HALL, WHITCHURCH on 21st NOVEMBER.

When it was announced that we were to be addressed by Mr Adrian Amsden, the Entomologist at the National Museum of Wales, it was not without some trepidation that we went along to the meeting. Would we be intimidated by the speaker or our ignorance of the subject?

We need not have doubted. Mr Amsden was most pleasant, clear and concise on his subject of **Bee and Wasp Species**. Despite his range of knowledge, his talk was delivered at the right level for the lay person.

The life of the Bumble Bee living in nests below ground was unfolded before us with slides and numerous specimens of the species and their habitat. Also the wide variety of wasps and their nesting habits.

Mr Amsden followed his talk with question time. Members had their queries dealt with and their experiences with bee or wasp elucidated.

Discussions went on after the meeting ended while we enjoyed tea and biscuits. We were grateful to Mr Amsden for guiding us to observe Bee and Wasp with greater understanding in the future.



Next Winter Meeting ... This will be held at Bethel Hall, Whitchurch at 7.30 pm on 23rd January 1991. Details of the talk will be announced by Mr Dave Jennings (Publicity & Events) in due course.



Apologies ... for misspelling 'Melingriffith' in the September Newsletter, detected by a sharp-eyed member. I cannot claim it as a deliberate mistake -, but it does prove that somebody reads the Newsletter!



On behalf of the Steering Committee may I convey to you all -

Best Wishes for a Happy Christmas and a Peaceful and Prosperous New Year



Christ is Born in Bethlehem

I leave you with these thoughts ...

HOPE

Sunlight

Shafting the boughs of winter
Convinces me as no other thing
That nature, in infinite wisdom,
Will lead us yet, to Spring.

K.P.



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