



Spring newsletter 2021

With restrictions now easing, we thought it would be a good time to remind you that the woods, and the Friends group, are still here.

Jonathan Kavanagh, Vice Chair, writes

As one of the three Vice Chairs it's been a noticeable year of contrasts for the group. While obviously limited in the activities, events and meetings that we've been able to engage our members with, many regular users of the woods will have also noticed the huge surge in visitor numbers in the spring and summer last year as we were all encouraged not to travel beyond our local areas.

Many people, having only lived a few miles away, have been discovering and exploring the woods for the very first time. This includes BBC Radio Nottingham's presenter Verity Cowley who posted on Twitter about her new find, calling the woods "an absolute gem" (no arguments from us), with her presenter colleague Allen Clifford also responding to say that it was "easily my favourite place to visit when I lived in Thorneywood" and so it would seem we have some fans on local radio!

Metal detectors

We've noticed an increase in the use of metal detectors in the woods, accompanied by holes being dug. The Council have confirmed that the use of metal detectors in the wood is illegal and can lead to criminal damage. The Council never licenses the use of metal detectors in the woods. If you see someone using metal detectors or digging in the woods, please report them to the Council using the email address

ParksandOpenSpaces@nottinghamcity.gov.uk.

Please don't collect firewood from the woods

Since 2008, it has been an offence to gather wood from private land (which the Woods are, being owned by the Council)) without permission. Please do not chop down branches or gather fallen branches. If they are on the ground, then small animals, insects and birds can use them for shelter.

Work parties in the Woods

A small work party tidied up the bottom of Mile Run and the Keeper's Cottage area last autumn



We submitted a suggested work plan to the Council and asked for their help in tidying up the memorial plantation, Mile Run, Keeper's Cottage, the pond and the allotments. A small group met with Emily Aron, the Council's biodiversity officer who agreed with our plans. We then met with staff from the Parks and Open Spaces Department who have agreed to

cut back Mile Run and Keeper's Cottage for us.

We are looking for volunteers to help us maintain the areas. Please email focw.enquiries@gmail.com if you are interested.

No work may take place in the Woods without the formal approval of the Committee or Council. If work is being done without such approval, then the participants are not covered by insurance should any accidents or damage happen.

Free Litter Picking Kits for City Residents

By signing up to become a Nottingham City Clean Champion, you are joining over 500 volunteers, across the city, making a difference from their doorstep. Together we can make Nottingham a cleaner place to live. You can contact them by emailing clean.champions@nottinghamcity.gov.uk.

Photographs

If you have seen any unusual plants, insects, birds or animals in the woods, please let us know by emailing us at focw.enquiries@gmail.com.

Thanks for all the photos you've sent and please continue to let us have more by posting them on our Facebook page or sending them to us for our website.

Can you lead a bird watching walk?

We'd like to organise a few bird walks but we'd need someone who can recognise birds by their songs, as well as by sight. Would that be you or someone you know? Please contact us on focw.enquiries@gmail.com.

Glynda Preston, Secretary, writes

Hopefully, we are all getting towards the end of an unprecedented thirteen months in our history and, although we cannot be complacent, a light at the end of a very dark tunnel may be in sight. Many have been affected during this awful time & Friends of Colwick Woods send our sincere condolences to all who have suffered.

Friends of Colwick Woods Organising Committee are looking forward to organising free walks again after May 17th and begin working to help maintain our beautiful Woods. As you all know due to COVID restrictions and years of underfunding, maintenance has suffered. We need you, our members to help us by joining work parties and/or having ideas of the kind of event you would like to be organised – who knows in time with enough of your help we could hold the Gala again

Angela Hornsby, Vice Chair, writes

What a year it has been, but great for wildlife, and I think they have all been in my garden (unless I've not had time to watch them before).

To be honest I have never looked at all of the colours before - the greater spotted woodpecker, goldfinch, jackdaw, robin, the tiny wren and magpie.

Must not forget my beloved bats; I have watched them from my window for many years now. Compared to seven years ago, their numbers are coming back up. They feed on moths and midges (they need to eat over 3,000 each night) so they do help us.

Well, keep your eyes peeled and enjoy what is around you.

Membership fees

From 1st May this year, we've removed family membership and have introduced a single fee of £3.00 per adult (over 16 years old). Children are welcome at our events. The fees cover our insurance costs for volunteer work parties, events, tools and the website. Thank you to everyone for supporting us.

Forms are available from the Greenwood Coffee Stop or Angela's Creations. You can now join and pay online by going to www.friendsofcolwickwoods.co.uk/join.

Would you like to join our committee?

We are always on the lookout for new committee members who would like to get stuck in and develop ideas for getting people interested in the future of the woods. If you would like to know more, please email the committee on focw.enquiries@gmail.com and our Secretary, Glynda Preston, will contact you.

Committee members

Vice Chairs : Angela Hornsby
Jonathan Kavanagh
Vanessa Osbourne

Secretary : Glynda Preston

Treasurer : Helen Hill

Membership : Richard Hill

Contact information

Please use our email address, FaceBook page or our website to contact us.

Email : focw.enquiries@gmail.com

Facebook : <https://l.facebook.com/focwlnr>

Website : www.friendsofcolwickwoods.co.uk