

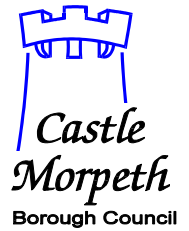


# Park Life

## Friends of Carlisle Park

Supporting Local Nature Reserves in Morpeth Town

February 2006



[www.castlemorpeth.gov.uk](http://www.castlemorpeth.gov.uk)

## Winter Update

### Friends of Carlisle Park Committee

**Chairman** — Sam Duckworth

**Secretary** - Maryan Duckworth

**Treasurer** — Brian Harle

**Committee Members:** Jacqui Harle  
Faith Lowery  
Emma Evans  
Sam Talbot

### Address

Friends of Carlisle Park  
C/O Carlisle Park  
Castle Morpeth Borough Council  
Coopies Lane Depot  
Coopies Lane Industrial Estate  
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Tel: Emma Evans, Park and Countryside Ranger  
01670 500771 or  
Sam Talbot, Local Nature Reserves Ranger  
01670 535319.

Email: [focp@castlemorpeth.gov.uk](mailto:focp@castlemorpeth.gov.uk)  
[www.wansbeckwoods.org.uk](http://www.wansbeckwoods.org.uk)

The Park and Countryside Manager is  
Anthony Spiers. Tel: 01670 500781

## Natural Wildlife Photograph Competition



Red Admirals at  
Heddon Common

Are you the next David Bailey? Are your considerable photographic skills going unnoticed? Here is your chance to shine! The Friends of Carlisle Park will be running their own photograph competition from 1st April 2006 until 31st March 2007. As long as your

photo is taken during that time in one of the Local Nature Reserves in Castle Morpeth Borough, and it features natural wildlife in some way, then you can enter and hopefully win!

There are prizes available to the winners of each of the three categories which are under 11s, under 18s and over 18s. And if you are really lucky then your photo may also feature in a 2008 Friends of Carlisle Park calendar.

It is hoped the competition and the resulting calendar will raise the profile of the group and highlight the natural beauty that is so easily accessible in our Local Nature Reserves.

Full details will be sent to you nearer the starting date of the competition, or phone Emma on 500771 for an application form.

## Try Willow Weaving in the Postern Burn

You might remember from a couple of issues ago that we mentioned that the Postern Burn needs some attention to try to stop the banks eroding. Work is starting soon.

We have enlisted the help of green woodworker Jim Bedingfield, who worked on the willow river revetment on the River Lyne at Ulgham. Jim will be here every weekday from Wednesday 22nd February until Tuesday 28th February, teaching Emma (and you hopefully) how to use willow to help prevent erosion on the bank sides of the Postern Burn. However, with just the two of us it will be slow work, so we'd greatly appreciate your help.

So, if you fancy learning a bit more about this ancient craft, then get your thermals, wellies and waterproofs on and head down to Carlisle Park between 10am and 4pm each day. Even an hour or two during that time will help us out lots. We'll provide gloves and all of the materials and tools. Wednesday afternoon volunteers please still meet at the park office at 1.30pm.

If you don't want to get your feet wet but would still like to find out more then come down anyway, there'll be lots to help with from dry land too. Phone Emma for more details on 500771.

## AGM update

Thanks to all of you who turned out for the AGM on the 15th February at the Joiner's Arms, and to those of you who let us know you couldn't make it. It was a much more pleasant venue than last year's meeting and a very productive one too.

The committee members were re-elected for the next year, and were joined by Faith Lowery, our newest committee member. Faith always helps out with practical conservation days, events and even came to Manchester last year to help collect the Green Flag for Carlisle Park, so we're looking forward to the contribution she'll bring to the committee meetings. Thanks



to the Chair, Sam Duckworth for persuading the Joiner's Arms to let us partake of their hospitality.

## Dates for your diary:

**Tuesday 21st February 1pm-3pm. Children's' Half Term Event - Bird**

**Boxes and Feeders** The recycling theme continues with some ways to help out the birds over the winter and spring. At Carlisle Park Bowling Pavilion.

**Wednesday 22nd-Tuesday 28th February. Willow Weaving in the Postern Burn. 10am-4pm weekdays**

Help us stop the erosion along the burn sides, see article on front page for more details.

**Wednesday 1st March 1.30pm-3.30pm. Compost in Carlisle Park.**

A bit of a change for our volunteer Wednesdays when Sue from WRAP will be here to teach us all something new about composting. Followed by a stint in Turner Garden again. Normal activities resume from 8th March, tea and biscuits still on offer!

**Sunday 19th March 2pm-4pm. Signs of Spring Walk, Scotch Gill Woods.**

Things are coming back to life about now, join us at Scotch Gill to see how much we can spot, meet at the car park at the woods.

**March 27th—April 8th** Friends of Carlisle Park Display in Morpeth Library

**April 1st 2006—March 31st 2007. FOCP Photograph Competition,** see article on page 1.

**April 21st, 22nd, 23rd—Morpeth Gathering.** Traditional events and activities throughout the town with Rentapeasant in Carlisle Park.

## Compost Bins

As 'Friends of' we're sure you all already compost as much garden and kitchen waste as you can. To make it even easier, Castle Morpeth Borough Council will soon be launching their own compost bin promotions. Phone 0845 077 0757 to order yours and quote 'Castle Morpeth Borough Council' as your reference. Either size (prices below) can be delivered to you free of charge. To find out more about composting come along to Carlisle Park at 1.30pm on 1st March.



## Try a Springtime Safari in Morpeth

The leaflet team have been hard at work again making it easier for us all to get out and enjoy our local wildlife in all seasons. The latest full colour addition to the collection is called '**Wildlife Hunting Around Morpeth In Springtime**'.

It is an introduction to our local habitats and reveals the history helped shape them.

The leaflet is brimming over with fascinating facts about why woodland plants grow in certain places, where to see them and how to work out which animals they attract to act as pollinators. You'll also find out about survival strategies for early butterflies, including why the Orange Tip is unpalatable to most predators.

Early birds also feature strongly in a Springtime leaflet, and this has them in abundance, all superbly illustrated by local artist John Caffrey. Discover which birds will be flying in this spring and summer, how to understand their calls and where to see them.

The leaflet, as part of a pack of other information, will be available from early March for just 90p at Carlisle Park Office and The Chantry Tourist Information Centre.

Many thanks once again to Alan Davison, Brian Harle and John Caffrey for this production.

## Wildlife Sightings

Don't forget to let us know if you have seen anything interesting or unusual lately. Simply fill in the purple card with your sightings and either post it to Coopies Lane Depot or drop it into the Carlisle Park Office. A pair of goosander have been seen quite regularly on the River Wansbeck over the past six weeks or so, and a male gadwall has been seen on the river by Quarry Woods. Also many thanks to Ian Tapster for all the records for Shadfen Park Farm, see [www.wansbeckwoods.org.uk](http://www.wansbeckwoods.org.uk) for more details.



Male goosander near Oldgate Bridge

## Library Display and Promotion

From March 27th until April 8th Morpeth Library will be the venue for a Friends of Carlisle Park display to promote the group and launch the photograph competition. We would like ideas of features for the display to encourage more people to join us. Thanks once more to local artist John Caffrey who has kindly donated the overall winner's prize for the photograph competition, one of his wonderful paintings. It will be on display at the library so get down there to see what you could win! Ideas to Emma please on 500771.