

Background of Friends of 7 Acres

The Friends of 7 Acres group was formed in 2003 by local people who wanted to protect and enhance the character of the country park. We meet once a month and promote activities in and around the park to support our aims of protecting wildlife and helping local people enjoy the landscape that makes Seven Acres so special.

Aims of the Group

- Ensure that 7 Acres Country Park is protected for the benefit of wildlife.
- Enhance and maintain 7 Acres country park for the purposes of conservation, education and leisure.
- Increase awareness of 7 acres country park as a resource for the local community.
- Stimulate local interest & involvement in its long-term care and well-being.



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How to join us:

Phone: 01204 663754
e-mail: scartwright@lancswt.org.uk

Beautiful Butterflies

This programs topic is our beautiful butterflies. In the modern world we tend to think of butterflies as carefree, colourful expressions of innocence but this has not always been the case.

One theory on the origin of the word butterfly is that it comes from the old German word '*butterfliege*'. The Germans knew their butterflies as 'milk thieves', a term that they also attributed to witches. They believed that the witches stole milk directly from cows in their fields and noticed that butterflies were also attracted to sour milk. They believed that this behaviour showed they were in league with the witches.

Our commonest butterfly in Seven Acres (& Britain) is the Meadow Brown. It has long had bad omens attributed to its sightings. It's scientific name *Maniola* refers to 'the spirit of the departed'. It was attributed to the butterfly by a theologian who described them as 'the children of Proserpina' – the wife of Pluto, lord of the underworld. As far back as 1490 AD Hieronymus Bosch showed a demon in 'The Garden of Delights' as wearing the wings of a Meadow Brown.

Perhaps the most recent development in the mythology of butterflies is the well known Chaos theory which states that a person can unintentionally create a big difference with small actions. Perhaps one of the strangest topics for a hit record ever in Muse's 'butterflies & Hurricanes'.



Lancashire,
Manchester &
N Merseyside

Seven Acres Squad Programme



June - September



www.lancswt.org.uk

Seven Acres Volunteer Program 2011

**Fri 3rd June,
10am - 3:30pm**
Clearing Himalayan
Balsam from along
Bradshaw Brook +
clearing an overflowing
drain!

**National Wildflower
Centre
Fri 10th June,
9am - 3:30pm**
Trip to NWC to look at
how they have
created their stunning
wildflower meadows &
learn some new plants
in the process!

**Fri 17th June,
10am - 3:30pm**
Balsam bashing! Trying
to free the ERC lodge
and Waggon Road
meadow of this
invasive menace.

**Fri 24th June,
10am - 3:30pm**
First regular litter
picking session to be
held every 4th Friday
of the month.

**Fri 1st July,
10am - 3:30pm**
More Balsam I'm
afraid. We'll get
there in the end!

**Fri 8th July,
10am - 3:30pm**
Plant Id on our stunning
grasslands in the
afternoon. Weeding a
hedge in the morning.



Southern Hawker
dragonfly on
Seven Acres taken
by our very own
Riche Rifkind

**Fri 15th July,
10am - 3:30pm**
Getting Seven
Acres up to shape
ready for our
summer survival
camp!

**Fri 22nd July,
10am - 3:30pm**
Second regular litter pick.
Help to keep Seven
Acres looking ship
shape.

**Fri 29th July,
1pm - 3pm**
Learn to identify some
of the butterflies and
bees that call Seven
Acres their home.

**Fri 5th August,
10am - 3:30pm**
Grassland
management &
collecting wildflower
seeds.

**Sat 6th August,
10am — 3pm**
Introduction to
Dragonfly surveying
with Rick Parker in-
cluding trip to Darcy
Lever Gravel Pits.

**Lytham Sand Dunes
Fri 12th August,
9am - 3:30pm**
Trip to the seaside to
celebrate Marine week.
We will be learning about
the wildlife that lives on
the seashore.

**Fri 19th Aug,
10am - 3:30pm**
Carrying on with
grassland
management to keep
Seven Acres flowers
flowering.

**Fri 26th Aug,
10am - 3:30pm**
Third regular litter
pick, Seven Acres has
never looked so good!

**Fri 2nd September,
8pm - 11pm**
Survey of Seven
Acres to find which
bat species live
around the site.

**Fri 9th Sept,
10am - 3:30pm**
Grassland management
again, look how
wonderful the animals
that live in grasslands
are on the picture
below!

**Fri 16th Sept,
10am - 3:30**
Final grassland
management day I
promise, its worth it!

**Fri 23rd Sept,
10am - 3:30**
Fourth regular litter pick,
spend all day or drop in
and



Looking for dragonflies!

Please wear
appropriate clothing
for all days - warm
clothing and stout
footwear necessary
for walking around
sites. For more
details please
contact Stephen
Cartwright on **01204
663754** or e-mail
**scartwright
@lancswt.org.uk**

Volunteers John Gardner & Riche Rifkind
keeping Seven Acres nice and tidy

