



...a breath of fresh air

WINTER 2008/9

# Stanwick Lakes News



## Test Trading

Over the summer Rockingham Forest Trust tested some of the product lines which could be stocked in the shop, at 'The Great Little Green Shop'. Best sellers were the Stanwick Lakes Explorer packs and pencils. Jute bags with the Stanwick Lakes logo are on sale at the cabin price £3.50

## Visitor Building

**THE BIG NEWS THIS YEAR** has been the start of construction of the visitor building. Fortunately this has caused only minimal disturbance to visitors, and has certainly created considerable interest. The site continues to be as busy and popular as ever, despite the rather dismal weather.

Our new visitor building (opening spring 09) should help to make Stanwick Lakes an all-year-round attraction with a range of facilities to tempt visitors on even the dullest days: a café overlooking the lake, a shop, an indoor pay-to-play area and space for interpretation and displays.

Its innovative design incorporates the latest 'green technology' such as solar

power, rain water harvesting, a ground source heat pump and a wind turbine, and will enable it to meet its own energy needs and be carbon neutral.



## Santa at Stanwick

Back by popular demand, the little old man in the red coat will be on site Saturday 6th and Sunday 7th December 11am-4.30pm in the log cabin, handing out Christmas presents from his grotto in the winter wonderland. Prices: £3.50 per child, £1 per adult (includes a glass of sherry and a mince pie).



### Christmas Opening Times

The site will be open from 7am-5pm over the festive season with the exception of Christmas Day, when it will be closed.

## Members' News

- Members have been enjoying a range of events during the year, including walks, pond-dipping, a talk on Northamptonshire folklore, and an 'Animal Magic' arts and crafts event for pre-schoolers, at which Local MP Phil Hope put in an appearance and chatted to members and volunteers.
- Our Members' Christmas event will be taking place in the log cabin on Saturday 13th December 4.30-6pm with festive activities for children, and free refreshments courtesy of Waitrose Rushden, Food and Home. Don't miss out! Booking recommended.
- The new events programme has a number of Members-only events, so don't forget to sign up with the rangers.





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## 'FOSiLS' dig deep

*Education visits have more than doubled.*

### Action and Adventure

#### Wildlife Close-up

As the rain came down this summer it seemed as though the only creatures not to mind were those with webbed feet! Our resident pair of swans ('Desmond and Deidre' to their friends) hatched their first cygnets.

We hope to see the return of bittern, which roost at dusk in the reed bed over the winter.

#### New Face

Attraction Manager George O'Leary has joined the RFT team to manage the enterprise activity at the site, and is busy ensuring that the right facilities and team are in place for when the visitor building opens in the spring. "I'm greatly enjoying the challenge, and am encouraged by how popular the site is already," said George.



Our wonderful group of volunteers – Friends of Stanwick Lakes or 'FOSiLS' – have had another busy year helping at the site. Whether adding new sand to the play areas, helping to build the new bird feeding station or 'manning' the cabin, they contribute to the site in so many ways. Their fundraising efforts provided the smart new information board for visitors by the car park. Anyone interested in volunteering in the new building should contact George O'Leary or the rangers.



Getting physical and enjoying the great outdoors are two of the key reasons why people come to the Lakes. Certain groups have had the chance to combine a number of activities this year: Manor School pupils have tried new team games, and challenges using the Trust's new training kit, as have various teams from local organisations.

Our events got people out on treasure hunts and dressing up as pirates, whilst the Heartbreak production of Peter Pan saw lots of energetic swashbuckling!



For further information on **Stanwick Lakes**, please contact Rockingham Forest Trust on 01832 274278 or the rangers on 01933 625522 or e-mail [info@rftrust.org.uk](mailto:info@rftrust.org.uk) **[www.stanwicklakes.org.uk](http://www.stanwicklakes.org.uk)** [www.rockingham-forest-trust.org.uk](http://www.rockingham-forest-trust.org.uk)

