

Newsletter

July 2018



The Friends of Linslade Woods

ANOTHER BUSY YEAR

Members and volunteers of FoLW are a great help with the maintenance of these woods. We meet monthly for Work Days on the alternate last Thursday and last Saturday of the month. We meet at 10 am, get our tools (loppers for keeping brambles in check on the paths, bow-saws when coppicing is required, and paper bags for rubbish collection) depending on the needs of maintenance and season of the year.

Our Greensand Trust ranger keeps us in-check and our long standing wardens refresh us with tea, coffee and biscuits. By midday most volunteers start to disband but, there are always a hardy few who stay on – especially if there's a bonfire on the go!

FoLW also organise Community Engagement activities, for example in 2017:

- For the children, an Easter fun day and later in the year a Buglab experience with the Greensand Trust.
- For the adults, there was the evening Spring walk, and other calendar fixtures such as the AGM where we learned a lot about bees courtesy of a local beekeeper.
- The Canal Festival in July, where we set out our stall, gave us the opportunity to interact with visitors and promote our cause.
- The local Xmas Tree Festival was a successful event that raised over £3,000 for All Saints Church.



Spring walk

Our Countryside officer Steve Halton, led us on another interesting and informative evening walk in May this year. About 18 attended, among them many new faces joined us. We listened to the various birdsongs, and Steve explained about opening areas up for flora and fauna to thrive.

This is done during our various work sessions held during the year. We were blessed with a lovely evening and again our thanks to Steve for a lovely evening and supporting us.

Orchids

A real benefit after our work sessions with clearing part of the 'horsetrack' from hawthorn and trees we have had a abundance of Common Spotted Orchids, which have been a real delight.

Special projects for 2017 included:



Repair of the metal gate, supervised by our Treasurer . . .



. . . and the impressive hedge laying by colleagues from the Friends of Tiddenfoot.

Late summer saw a new FoLW objection to yet another proposed planning application for the development encroaching on the tranquility of the woods, on land beside Soulbury Road/Leighton Road. This is an on-going process linked with the CBC Local Plan.

2017 activities drew to a close with a Work Day in the Woods on Saturday 16th December followed by the now traditional 'jacket potato' fest!

2018 kicked off on with a Work Day in the woods on Thursday 25th January and thereafter the last Saturday in February and so on, alternating month by month. A reminder is sent, by email to all members, with a confirmation of date, time and meeting place.

Notices are placed in the display boards in the woods and Tesco stores for those adults who wish to volunteer and who are not members. Staff from Tesco frequently join our workparties.

We are expected to keep busy with projects in the pipe line, subject to finance, to lay a board walk in the very muddy area of the woods and extend the hedge laying.

Also we are hoping to be able to announce that FoLW has once again received its Green Flag Award. We are also preparing a portfolio for the judges to accompany our application for Britain in Bloom - woodlands - Natural Reserve status.



The FoLW - AGM 2018 took place at the Foster Institute on 6th April and we were fortunate to have a most interesting guest speaker, Steve Halton, not only a passionate Ecologist at Central Beds Council, but an artist and poet too.

As a committee we aim to arrange Community Engagement activities, such as:

Guided Spring Walk in May - a bat walk later in the year (we have several species of bat breeding in the woods). We are planning a parent and children picnic in the woods - dates to be announced later, and hope for the return of Buglab. FoLW will be at the Canal Festival in July, with some activities and, though it seems a long way off, at the Xmas Tree Festival at St Barnabas for 2018 - to mention but a few.

However, we need more support and would love to welcome new members and volunteers to put forward ideas and help organise and participate in events to ensure a successful outcome.

To that end, why not become a member and share your ideas? We are a small committee, formal meetings are kept to an absolute minimum and most communication is via email. We recognise time is precious and appreciate whatever time a member or volunteer can offer at any given event. There is no expectation.



The Spring Walk

Why not join us?

Annual membership runs from 1st April 2018 to 31st March 2019 and costs: £5 per pp - Another person in same household £3pp - Unwaged £2pp, so why not pick up a membership form.

Look us up on the website:

www.linsladewood.info