

## Friends of Linslade Woods - 2018 summary

Dear fellow member of FoLW as a new year begins it is time to reflect on the achievements of 2018. Once again saw the same faithful volunteers turn out into the woods on the monthly Action Days and rewarded with much appreciated tea, coffee, biscuits and doughnuts!

As always, volunteers were kept busy managing overgrown brambles from paths and those strangling trees, clearing litter and removing carefully identified trees - to create light and better growing conditions for the rest of the stock. Other activity included hazel coppice and hedge laying, if you wander along to the kissing gate on Stoke Road, you will see the evidence. This work was led by Dave Ayres, Chair of Tiddenfoot Friends, the merry band of Daves, Jim, Salli and Vicky. All under the watchful eye of our Greensands Trust Ranger, John Creasey. Do browse the FoLW website for more information.

The AGM in April was well attended at the Forster Institute and we were lucky to count on Steve Halton, ecologist and CBC (Central Beds Council) representative as our guest speaker. We were regaled with amusing wildlife anecdotes and privileged to look at his personal notebooks of drawings and sketches.

During the year there were, of course, the customary and popular Spring Walk and Bluebell walk. But above all 2018 was a year of awards, thanks to the ongoing support of Steve Halton, John Creasey and Rosie Palmer. The Green Flag was again awarded with customary pennant in July. September the Certificate for gold in the Woodland Category and the wooden bowl was awarded for best wood - both these awards are kept in the White House in Leighton Buzzard.



Judith, Malcolm and Sue proudly holding awards (pictures courtesy of Rosie Palmer as published in the Leighton Buzzard Observer on 25th September.

In July the Canal Festival was very well attended but, our stall and others in the same area, were badly affected by the strong wind of the day. This meant that displays were not

stable and had to be removed rather diluting our presence. Something to consider for 2019

The Tesco grant, which run from 1st September to the end of October has yielded results and we have been allocated the sum of of £2.000. Thanks to Malcom, our treasurer, for organising the documentation required and also to all those who put the little blue discs in the container to help our cause - improving the very wet and muddy areas in the woods.

We were pleased participate in The November 'Christmas Tree Festival' at St Barnabas Church with our homemade 'Twig Tree' curtesy of Mike. The event was a jolly and well attended spectacle and raised approx. £2.000.

Judith and Sue, as always busy bees, keep a watchful eye over building proposals, engineering works and wood surveillance led by Sue and David Booth. So, many thanks to them for taking the time and trouble.

The year closed on the 15th December with the last Working Day and the traditional jacket potato lunch. Sadly the turnout was poor due to the wet weather but, as all clouds have silver linings, those who did turn up were introduced to Gary's baby son, Edward.

## **Marching on to 2019...**

Our first Activity Day is Thursday 31st January. So, polish your boots, grab your hat, scarf and gloves and join us at the top of the Soulbury Road Bridleway entrance, where we will endeavour to burn some calories by clearing Rides around the wood.

2019 sees the 10 year anniversary since CBC acquired the wood and we will be considering how this should be celebrated. As always, we would welcome more ideas and help organising and participating in events. To that end we would love to hear from you and look forward to seeing you all at the forthcoming AGM where we can share ideas.

**This year the AGM will be held at**

**The Forster Institute  
12th April 7.30pm**

**and will include a talk about Swifts and their habits**