

Friends of Linslade Woods 2017 summary

Dear fellow member of FoLW, 2017 was another productive year which kept our faithful crop of volunteers busy, not only with the monthly Work Days in the woods, but also with Community Engagement activities and other projects:



For the children, we introduced an Easter fun day (see poster) and later in the year another Buglab experience. New and existing activities designed to raise nature awareness to youngsters.

For the adults, there was the Spring walk.

Calendar fixtures such as the AGM enabled us to learn about bees courtesy of local beekeeper, Caroline Luxford. The Canal Festival gave us the opportunity to interact with visitors and promote our cause. Whilst the local Xmas Tree Festival was a successful event that raised over £3.000 in aid of fund raising for All Saints Church.

Special projects for 2017 included:

repair of the metal gate, supervised by our Treasurer Malcolm.



And the impressive hedge laying done by Dave Ayres Chair and fellow Tiddenfoot Friends.

Late summer saw new a FoLW objection to another proposed application for the erection of 18 bungalows on land beside Soulbury Road/Leighton Road affecting the woodland. This was led by Judith Knight and is an on going process.

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 objectives

2018 kicks 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. As always a reminder will be sent with the date, time and meeting place.

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. To increase funds an application to 'Tesco Bags for Projects' has been put in place by Malcolm and other sources are being considered via 'Waitrose Community Project Scheme' and possible the 'Aviva Community Fund'.

Also we will be applying again for the Green Flag Award, Britain in Bloom - woodlands, and Natural Reserve status. These applications are in the hands of Steve Halton, John Creasey and Rosie Palmer - our thanks go out to them.

We intend to arrange Community Engagement activities, such as:

- Spring Walk - bluebells,* Easter
- Easter children's nature wall*
- Bat walk*
- Canal Festival* (last Saturday of July)
- Xmas Tree Festival - St Barnabas for 2018*

*All the above community engagement activities need to be discussed and planned.

We would welcome more ideas and help organising and participating in all these events to ensure a successful outcome. To that end we would love to hear from you if you have any ideas and/or if you could commit to organising/participating.

Look forward to seeing you all at the forthcoming AGM where we can share ideas.

This year the AGM will be held at

**The Foster Institute
6th April 7.30pm
and will include a talk from Steve Halton
Ecologist at Central Beds Council
as well as artist and poet.**



Judith found this magnificent snowman whilst out enjoying the magic of Linslade Woods in the snow!