



Friends of Ecclesall Woods

Newsletter July 2010.



Chair/Editor: Linda Evans, 2585346

Membership: Lorna Baker, 2369025

Summer is with us, with holidays and all the changeability of the weather. Not many events during summer, as so many people are away. Make the best of the ones we have.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

The date of the Annual General Meeting has changed.

New Date: **Thursday 11 November 2010, at 8.00 p.m.**

At Holy Trinity Church Hall, Grove Road

Speaker to be announced

Please change the date in your diary now.

FEW Meeting

Sat 21 Aug, 10 a.m. Joint Meeting with Sorby and Beauchief Environment Group. Meet At Sawmill off Abbey Lane

Nether Edge Wildlife Group

Sat 11 Sept. 10 a.m. Walk in Ecclesall Woods, led by (one or more) members of FEW. Meet at Ryecroft Glen Road.

Friends of the Porter Valley Meetings

Wed. 4 August, 7.30 p.m. Open meeting, "Anatomy of a Sheffield Folder". A talk by Grace Horne. Bents Green Methodist Hall

Sat. 7 August, 10.30 a.m. Annie's August Amble from 'C' to 'C'. Forge Dam Café to Endcliffe Park Café; meet at Forge Dam Café. Looking at changes in the valley.

Sat. 11 Sept, 7.30 p.m. Bat Watch, walk led by Derek Whitley. Meet at Forge Dam Café

Sat. 2 Oct, 10.30 a.m. Finding Fungi, walk led by Ziggy Senkens. Wire Mill Dam Car Park.

The End of Tradition?

Major Conference at Sheffield Hallam University

15-17 Sept 2010

This conference will look at the threats posed by modern landscape practices to biodiversity, ecology, and the connection of people to the natural world. Examples will be drawn from wooded landscapes, rural and urban commons, heaths, moors, coasts, and wetlands. The organisers are keen to involve members of local groups and volunteers in the event. Organisations such as Natural England, the Woodland Trust, the Wildlife Trusts, and RSPB will be taking part. Guest of Honour: Professor David Bellamy.

More information from www.ukeconet.co.uk

Enquiries and booking forms from Conference Team, phone 0114 272 4227, or info@hallamec.plus.com

Special Rates for Volunteers and members of local groups.

Environment Week Walks.

The archaeology walk, led by Geoffrey Hartland, and the ecology walk, led by Monica Rorison, were both well-attended (about 18 people on each) and well-received. These walks are now an annual event, and every year new people appear at them. There is obviously unsatisfied demand for walks which are well-publicised, in this case in the Environment Weeks booklets.

Pond Naming and Opening, 23 June 2010.



The competition at Dobcroft Primary School for a name for the pond produced 71 suggestions. It was agreed unanimously that Madeleine Bingham's suggestion of **Colliers' Pond** was an appropriate name. Runners-up were Luca Di-Bon, Jasmine Snape, and Kester Arden-Armitage, all of whom suggested Yardley Pond, and Rishi Ladva, who suggested Eccy Pond.



At the opening on 23 June, Sylvia Dunkley (top picture) announced the name and the winner. Several other Councillors were present, and a Press photographer. Refreshments were provided by the Sawmill staff.

The lower photograph shows a teacher from Dobcroft Primary with some pupils, at the pond overflow.

We were lucky with the weather that day, and it was a pleasant and informal occasion.

Footpath Group, from Jane Beresford

We have completed the pond project, and do not have another major project. Over the last few weeks, we have concentrated on removing Himalayan Balsam. This is a pretty plant, but also very invasive if not deterred, and pushes out less vigorous native plants.



It grows up to 150 cm (5'). The flowers mature their seeds in a capsule, which pops when ready and disperses seed around the plant. Flowers July-September. If you see some, break down the plant.

The Footpath Group welcomes new volunteers. Every Tuesday morning; meet at the container at the Sawmill at 9.30 a.m., or contact Jane Beresford on 2368867.

Ecology Group, from Monica Rorison

We had cool but dry weather for our walk on 19th June. Four members were present, and to our delight we found 28 flowering species. We started at the Dore Picnic Area on Limb Lane and took in the wood margin at Ryecroft Glen Playing Fields. This area is always worth a visit for the richness of flowering species. A few years ago, one of our members found a rarity, slender St-John's-Wort, in this area.

The walk on 17 July took place in warm but damp conditions. Three members of FEW, and 3 from BEG, took part. We started on the waste ground near the parking place in the Ryecroft Glen playing fields, and reached the Donkey Field. We found 34 flowering species. There were many bumblebees on the flowering thistles.

Our plant survey of summer flowers is in progress – I have just received the first results from one surveyor. Plant surveyors, please also make notes of any butterflies, bumblebees, or other insects attracted by the flowers.

Art Group, from Monica Rorison.

We had fabulous weather for our meetings, but very few members could make it. Usually we were up to 3 members on Sundays. The art work in the stillness of the Woods, except for the murmur of a brook or the song of birds, has been delightful. No meetings in August or early September. We may start again in mid-September, weather permitting. If you do camera or other work in the Woods on your own, keep it up. We hope to have our exhibition in the autumn.

Email: monica@rorison.plus.com



J. G. Graves Centre at the Sawmill.

You may have noticed that work on the Graves building, on the Sawmill site, has stopped. The builders have gone into administration. The Council is negotiating with the administrators about the completion of the building. While there will be a delay, work is expected to start again in September and be completed by the end of the year

Next Issue.

We hope to produce another issue in mid-October, before the AGM. There was no response to the Forum question in the last issue. Please let us have your views and thoughts on the Woods.

If you would like to join the Committee, or be an official, please let the Chairman (Linda Evans, 2585346) or other Committee member know, so we can arrange elections at the AGM.

