



Friends of Ecclesall Woods

Newsletter September 2012.

www.friendsofecclesallwoods.org.uk



Chair/Editor: Linda Evans, 2585346
Membership: Lorna Baker, 2369025

Autumn can be a time of new beginnings – new schools, new hobbies, new activities, new interests. Groups do more, and need more volunteers to help them do it. Can this be the autumn you start something new?

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Thursday 11 October 2012 at 7.30 pm

In the Woodland Discovery Centre

Preceded by a talk on Fungi by “Ziggy”

Agenda and last year’s Minutes start on p.3.

FEW Events and Activities

Mon 17 Sept, 7.00 pm, Woodland Discovery Centre. Jon Dallow, “Woodland Learning: Not Just for Kids”. Audience participation will be needed; kids welcome.

Sun 23 Sept., 2.00pm till 5 pm. “Have a Go” sessions, for existing and intending volunteers. Please ring 2356348 if you plan to come.

Sat 29 Sept., 10 am, start at Discovery Centre. Fungus walk with Ziggy. We will have to limit numbers for this very popular walk; please ring or email Linda (numbers above) if you plan to come.

Mon 19 Nov, 7 p.m. Discovery Centre/ Talk by Ray Martin, “Green Men and Ancient Woods”

Sunday 28 October, 11 am to 4 pm.

AUTUMN FUN DAY

HERITAGE ACTIVITIES

BRONZE AND IRON SMELTING

WOODCRAFTS

CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES

FORMAL LAUNCH OF HLF-GRANT PROJECT

CRAFT SALES AND STANDS

REFRESHMENTS

Torch-Lit Night Walk, Saturday 15 September, 7 p.m.

4.5 km around Ecclesall Woods. Start at the Woodland Discovery Centre.

A sponsored walk for Weston Park Hospital Cancer Charity. Look on www.wphcancercharity.org.uk, or ring 0114 226 5370.

Craft Courses at the Woodland Discovery Centre

**Saturday 22nd & Sunday
23rd September 9:30am – 4:30pm**

Advanced Pole Lathe skills - £80

Learn turning & finishing techniques for a range of products, to a very high standard. Previous experience of Green woodcraft desirable as this is an intensive course

**Sunday 21st October
10am – 3:30pm**

Rustic Stool Course - £60

Make a simple stool using cleft green Ash & Hazel

Courses must be booked. Contact Sarah on 2356348 or at sarah.chapman@sheffield.gov.uk

Beauchief Environment Group Event

Sat. 13 Oct, 7.30 pm at St. Peter's Parish Centre, Reney Avenue, Greenhill. John Driscoll will give an illustrated talk on "7000 miles round Australia; Perth to Sydney via the Northern route". Cost £3.

Footpath Group.

Steve Lindley has volunteered to produce a monthly report on the group's work, for which many thanks. They have cleared culverts, cut back low-hanging branches, tidied footpaths, pulled up tree seedlings, and generally maintained the Woods.

This is a good place to say that Ecclesall Woods got a Green Flag award once again, and a lot of the credit for this has to go to the Footpath Group. Originally, the Green Flag committee used to make a formal visit to inspect the woods. Now, when we've had a Green Flag award for more than 5 years, they carry out unexpected monitoring visits. We still qualify.

Photography Competition.

The competition closed on 31 August, with a large number of entries and a very high overall standard. Ken Marshall arranged for 2 independent judges, who chose an overall winner. The winner, and runners-up, will be announced at the AGM, where there will also be a display of photographs. We have chosen 12 seasonal pictures and will be producing a 2013 calendar, on sale in October. We hope it will be ready for the AGM, but it may be first on sale at the Heritage Open Day, 28 October. Price will be £5.

New Treasurer Needed. (IMPORTANT)

Ken Marshall has resigned as Treasurer because of pressure from his (many) other commitments. We must therefore elect a new Treasurer at the AGM.

This is not an onerous job. We have 20-30 transactions a year at most. It used to take me (Linda) less than half an hour before each committee meeting, and about 2 hours to produce accounts at the year end.

Will people who are willing to be Treasurer please ring Linda Evans on 2585346?

AGENDA FOR THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

- 1. Apologies**
 - 2. Minutes of Last AGM (next page)**
 - 3. Chairman's Report**
 - 4. Financial Report and Accounts**
 - 5. Membership Report**
 - 6. Footpath Report**
 - 7. Ecology Report**
 - 8. Archaeology Report**
 - 9. Any Other Business**
 - 10. Date of next AGM.**
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Committee Members.

The Committee, in 2011-12, was made up of:

Linda Evans, Chairman

Ken Marshall, Treasurer **Resigned.**

Lorna Baker, Membership Secretary

Monica Rorison, Minutes Secretary and Ecology Group

Jane Beresford, Footpath Group

Geoffrey Hartland, Archaeology Group.

Monica is resigning as leader of the Ecology Group. We need a successor.

FEW's membership has expanded over the last year. So have its activities. More talks, more walks, starting the Children's Watch Club, photography competition, and our part in the Heritage Lottery Fund project. We need more active people on the committee, and there are many ways for them to be active.

PLEASE CONSIDER JOINING THE COMMITTEE, AND RING LINDA ON 2585346, OR EMAIL ON lindafrancesevans@o2.co.uk

Minutes Annual General Meeting 2011

The meeting took place on October 13th at the new Graves Building, Ecclesall Woods, Saw Mill. It was preceded by a talk on "The Mysteries and Magic of Ecclesall Woods", given by Professor Ian Rotherham . Twenty four members attended the meeting.

1) Apologies : John and Lorna Baker, Malcolm and Margaret Lewis, Jean Barber.

2) Minutes of last Meeting: The minutes were accepted as the correct record, proposed : Pat (surname ?), seconded: David Garnham.

3) Chairman's Report: Our Website is up and running. There were 800 visits to the Website in September. The information board on White Coal Hearths is now installed in Wood 3. Four more information boards are being financed by the Dore Village Society.

Two of them will be installed near the Whirlow Mill - and Ryecroft Wheel site. Research on the information available for these sites is progressing. Another information board will be placed near the orange flow of water out of disused mines near the Limb Brook in Wood 3.

A Parks and Countryside Grant is being applied for in order to renew all information boards at entrances of the Woods. This grant should also cover the cost of a new pamphlet on the archaeology of the Woods and a reprint of our Common Species Booklet.

We had a general emergency meeting to approve a new constitution.

A Green Flag Award has been given to the Woods, now for the 6th year. Sadly the Art Group had to fold , because of lack of support.

4) Finance: Ken Marshall warned that we are losing income and are not balancing our books. We have to think of new ways to increase our membership. David Garnham and his wife have volunteered to visit the houses which face the Woods with their gardens and speak to the residents about the needs to preserve Ecclesall Woods. They will take new membership forms and booklets around for information.

Ken also suggested more advertising of our aims for the Woods to attract more members, corporate membership from firms or businesses could be sought.

If we are running a photographic competition next year, a calendar could be produced and sold for further income.

The committee has suggested that the subscriptions will have to go up this year for 2012 to 10 £ per household. Members present felt that this might be an unfair burden to single householders. This issue was taken to the vote. 16 votes went for the new subscriptions against 3 votes for a lower rate for single householders.

5) Membership: No report in the absence of Lorna Baker.

6) Footpath and Pond: Jane Beresford reported that the group has cleared Rhododendron and continues to remove new shoots. Himalayan Balsam is also being removed, but Japanese Knotweed must now not be moved anymore in any way, because it needs special treatment. Two areas have been cleared of bramble, where Bluebells are to flower. Rotary Club volunteers will also clear bramble in November, where it covers Bluebells. The group has tackled clearing and widening the footpath on Abbey Lane.

More planting has been done around the Collier Pond and although the water is not yet clear, dragonflies and other wildlife has been spotted.

8) Ecology Report: This year's plant survey is concerned with trees, mainly conifers, but also Hornbeam and Crabapple. Results will be gathered in November and I can report at next year's AGM in detail.

We had two bird walks this year, one late in March, the other one in early June led by Paul Medforth and much appreciated. In March, activity in the heron colony was interesting to watch and we spotted a Sparrow Hawk high above the Saw Mill clearing mobbed by crows. The June walk was in fine weather and produced as many species seen or heard as the earlier walk.

Throughout the growing season we surveyed the donkey field for the distribution of plants and noted our observations on the insect - and bird life. There certainly has been change in numbers of flowering plants and insects since the coppicing 2-3 years ago. The report has gone to the Saw Mill Management and been forwarded to our Woodland Manager, John Gilpin and Ranger, Henk Littlewood.

9) Archaeology: Geoffrey Hartland reported that the Environment Weeks Walk was very well attended (22 members). Katherine Hartland helps with guiding this group.

10) Any other Business: David Garnham has agreed to rejoin the committee and we are very pleased about this decision and accept his nomination, proposed Ken Marshall, seconded Linda Evans.

11) Date of next AGM: October the 11th, 2012

Can you identify these plants? All the pictures were taken in the Woods, so extra marks if you know where they can be found.

