

FRIENDS OF HOLLINSWOOD & RANDLAY VALLEY

Environmental Officer's report to Hollinswood & Randlay Parish Council

Volunteer Days

Further to the last meeting, our volunteer days have been successful and we have had some new faces attend. This summer we have targeted the bridleway to let some sunshine shine onto the path to hopefully help with the continuous drainage problems, but we all know it won't be resolved all of it.

Red and Green Routes

As you might have seen if you have been in the Valley or seen on Facebook, we have now got two walking routes in the Valley. The Green route is for all abilities, benches are 110 meters apart. The Red route has some inclines and benches are 180 meters apart.

Evening Volunteer Day

One of the requests at the last FoHaRV meeting was to put on some evening volunteer events for the people who work or can't attend the morning ones. I've got to say these have been very successful. We are looking for the next one to be on the 8th August with the time to be confirmed. When the clock goes back, we will need to discuss what will happen, maybe we can consider weekends through the winter months?

Mercian 2024-2025

On Wednesday 3rd July I attended a meeting with Smallwoods and T&W to discuss going forward and to look at the work we have done last year. I'm happy to say they were pleased with the work we have done so far. Smallwoods will come back to Valley again this year to help us. Rachel Bates and Smallwoods are going to help us to create a work plan, I do believe this will come in handy in times when myself and Glyn can't attend for any reason. The volunteers can have a look at this work plan and decide themselves what they can achieve for the time they have got available depending on the weather too.

Pond

As you all know, we have got a pond at the bottom of the meadow which has over time been taken over by weeds. In the meeting with Smallwoods and T&W it was clear that they are very keen to get the pond back to life and have a seating area for dog walkers etc to sit and enjoy the pond, but we all know that will come with a cost. Rachel is going to send me some information on companies that can help with this. I also believe that she mentioned about grants and funding that could be available to achieve this, but I do think this will be a long term project.

Events

After seeing that Apley Woods have lots of events with Shropshire Wildlife in their woods, it got me thinking - why can't we have events and work more closely with Shropshire Wildlife. After a couple of emails I can confirm that we have got Shropshire Wildlife coming into the Valley for three days over the 6 weeks' holidays. Dates are 6th August, 20th August and 29th August.

After having the 3 dates I am wondering if we could put something on for the public to attend free every week through the six weeks holiday, with volunteer days and rambles walks and we have achieved this. We also have got a bat walk going into the Valley on 15th August with Rachel Bates which will be very different to the events we usually deliver.

Please see the summer activity calendar showing what will take place in the Valley with dates and times throughout the summer holiday period.

Posters will be on social media, our information screens, website and noticeboards when times have been confirmed.

Liam Seabury

Environmental Officer

Friends of Hollinswood & Randlay Valley