

Appendix C

The Report of the Chairman FoH&RV – January 2025

I would to welcome you all to this the first friends of meeting of 2025

Good evening everybody I am presenting my report on the first occasion as Chairman.

I am of course in this position as we no longer have the presence of our long esteemed member and stalwart - Chris Turley

It is our intention to create a tribute for Chris in the Valley of which he would approve and I hope we can progress that tonight.

It is my intention as Chairman to tap into and build upon the network that Chris Turley established within Telford and Wrekin and I will continue to ask my fellow officers to support that. I am deeply aware that my own connections and knowledge are comparatively slight.

Since our last meeting we have run

- Winter craft Sessions using natural materials on December 23rd
- A volunteer day, we removed three trees that had been blown down by storm Darragh across the disabled path on a Saturday morning in December
- A Halloween event which was extremely fun and spectacular – many thanks to everyone but particularly John for providing the special effects and projections
- A winter walk in the rather sodden meadow on December 27th
- A volunteer Day on 11th January was cancelled but I believe it will be rearranged soon – such are the vagaries of nature and cold weather

We are a volunteer organisation and are not wealthy, though we manage our funds sensibly and prudently. Our Treasurer's report tonight will show fluid balance but not a bountiful one. We are dependent on donations and grants to find the financial resources to buy the tools and materials we need to complete the projects including, also, upgrading our information boards and maps.

We also use the Telford and Wrekin Lottery (Twincl) to raise funds as an official cause. So I will encourage everyone to support it and spread the word.

I would like to thank all the officers and members for the work they do to improve and maintain the Valley. To make it fit for wildlife to inhabit and visitors to enjoy.