



Friends of Hollinswood & Randlay Valley

Message from the Chairman, Harvey Unwin

It is my sad duty to present the report of the Chairman of the Friends of Hollinswood and Randlay Valley I am newly elected into the role.

As many of you will be aware, our longstanding chairman, Chris Turley passed away this year.

Chris had been a stalwart of the Friends of Hollinswood and Randlay Valley for many years and its chairman for 7 years

Chris was committed to the Valley, its protection and improvement and was an exemplary member of the team.

He was also a great communicator and used his connections to expound on the beauty of the Valley and obtain any support we might need

On volunteer days, you often saw Chris working the hardest on the grass mower.

During our events, Chris was always there to help organise or support.

It is our intention to create a tribute for Chris in the Valley of which he would approve.

This year, the friends have run many monthly volunteer days clearing paths , tidying the meadow , updating stiles, steps and improving fencing.

Most recently, we removed three trees that had been blown down by storm Darragh across the disabled path on a Saturday morning in December

The evening sessions we have introduced this year during Spring and Summer have been well supported and effective, we will continue them in the New Year. I recommend that anyone available should come along. They are well-organised and safely led and a great deal of fun.

It is not just volunteer days that we have organised this year, we ran

Summer & Winter craft sessions using natural materials

A Halloween event

A bat walk – which was a thoroughly enjoyable evening and the numbers of bats in the valley astounding

A friends litter pick as part of the Great British Spring Clean

A winter walk in the rather sodden meadow

In the Valley, we have put out new marker posts indicating the paths marked out on our maps.

We are a volunteer organisation and are not wealthy, though we manage our funds sensibly and prudently. 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.

I would like to thank all the officers and members for their work to improve and maintain the Valley and to make it fit for wild-life to inhabit and visitors to enjoy.

Liam Seabury, Environmental Officer for Friends of Hollinswood and Randlay Valley;s report.



Volunteer Days

Further to my last report, our monthly volunteer days have continued to be successful. Nova Training are very keen to attend every month, too. We also recently had a request to have Landau Training attend our volunteer days - we will be meeting with them next year to start working closely with them, too.

Evening Volunteer Day/ Weekends

The first weekend volunteer day was also very successful with a lot of work being completed and a couple more new faces attended. We thinned and scalloped around the perimeter of the woodland area - which is location in the middle of the meadow - to make a wavy shaped woodland edge.

Kissing Gate

I'm happy to confirm that the stile nearest to Hollinswood side which leads from the footpath to the meadow has been changed to a kissing gate for better access for the public. As you know the path leading to this isn't the best, so, we have also put in a grant application to Veolia for funding to make this safe for public to use.

Mercian Practical Workshop

On the 17th October, we had Smallwoods lead a workshop on how to coppice a woodland area inside the woodland area. I was able to attend and it was very enjoyable and I learnt a lot. Also to be able to discuss with other friends of groups and woodland owners on how to deal with things throughout the year was interesting and useful. All the coppicing work was done on the bridleway nearest to Randlay.

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 through 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.



Events Report 2025

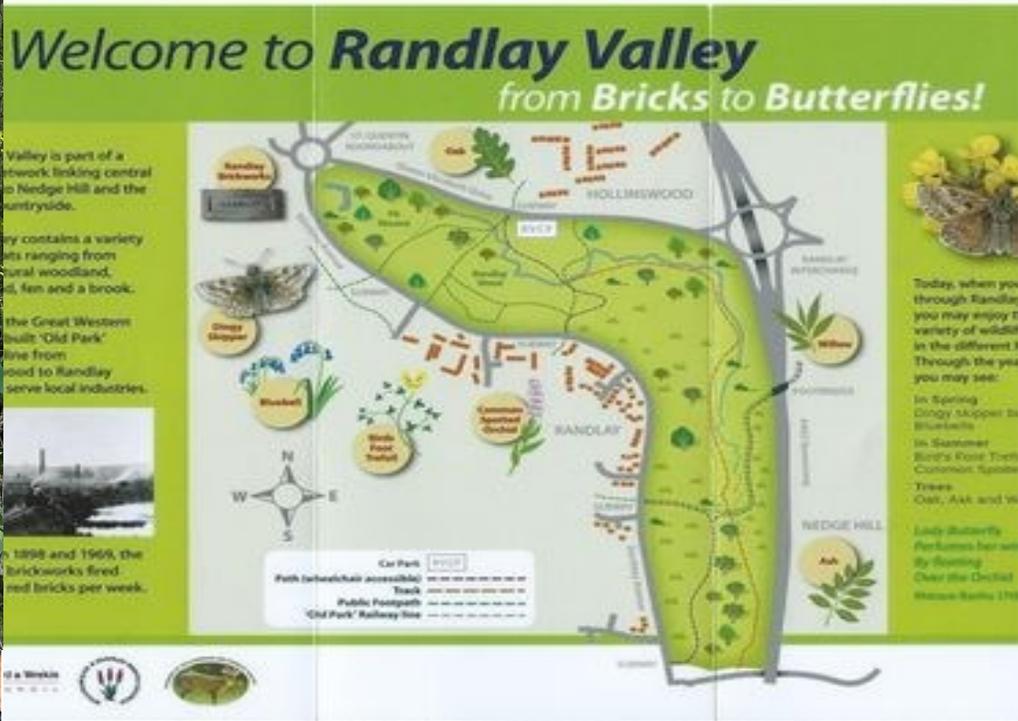
Its been a busy year with lots of events for families during the summer holidays, butterfly spotting, bat walk, den building, treasure hunt, stick craft and environmental art and arts and craft all sessions were well attended. Thank you, Liam Seabury, for organizing these events, thanks also to Shropshire Wildlife Trust and Rachel Bates.

I would like to thank all our volunteers who have helped at either our evening or Saturday events, I personally feel so much healthier when I am working in the valley.

Events over October half term included Halloween arts and crafts at The Pavilion with 50 children and adults attending. The film night was also well attended, with a very spooky atmosphere thanks to John, Glyn and Liam. Thanks also to everyone who helped.

Sheenagh





How to Contact Us

Thank you for expressing an interest in the work of Friends of Hollinswood & Randlay Valley. Our group welcomes new members at any time .

Please email us at fohrvalley@gmail.com and we will add your email address to our database.

We will be able to share with you details of the work programme and to keep you informed of current projects and events. We will not share your details with any third parties and they will only be used in association with Randlay Valley .



**Please join us on Facebook
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Website

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