



Friends of Island Pond Wood

Launton Annual Parish Meeting 25 April 2019

Report from Friends of Island Pond Wood including FIPW Ltd

The Friends of Island Pond Wood held its' Annual General Meeting on 31st January this year. All committee members agreed to continue for another year. In addition there is the board of Friends of Island Pond Wood Ltd, chair Tony Meacock, which is the formal leaseholder.

It has been another busy year with a total of 9 major work sessions and two miscellaneous sessions but thankfully not quite as busy as the previous year. In September we had our annual pond maintenance session and in October we had our two joint sessions with Bicester Green Gym. They also joined us in January when their usual planned session fell through. For the first time in three years we didn't have a major session in November with Oxford Conservation Volunteers due to their over demand.

Another seat was installed near the pond in May, made from recycled bits of earlier seats thanks to Roger Neal. We took advantage of the low level of water in Island Pond to replace the old wooden bank support near the seat, installed by the Woodland Trust some years ago to control bank erosion.

Emma Gardner conducted a bird survey in the early part of the year with 37 species recorded. An off spin from this were two bird walks around the wood, led by Jonathan Mercer over a weekend in May, one at dusk and another at dawn, which also helped our fundraising activities. We have also installed a number of bird boxes in the wood. A further fundraiser was helping with the marshalling etc. at the Launton Lollop which took place alongside the Village Fete on 9th June. We will again be assisting with Launton Lollop in 2019 but this time it is being held in September.

We continue to investigate ways of promoting greater diversity of flowers in the meadow area at the top of the wood. We also regularly monitor the condition of the ash trees and are pleased to report that they appear to remain healthy.

Richard Peverell is our fishing bailiff and in 2018 15 fishing permits were issued.

The Parish Council continue their support by funding some of the mowing in the woodland. Their funds enable us to mow the paths three times a year and rough mow some parts of the wood once a year to keep the blackthorn in check. Efforts are still being made by FIPW Ltd to identify funding sources for both large and small projects.

In 2018 we celebrated the 10th Anniversary of FIPW in a small way but we hope to have more celebrations in 2019 when it is 20 years since the woodland was planted.

The committee members would like to express their thanks and appreciation to all those who have been involved this year, whether participating in work parties, providing administrative support, or for simply enjoying the wood. Thanks also goes to those people who have made donations to the woodland through the year, which enable us to tackle the various projects, and to the Parish Council for paying for the more mature Armistice Memorial Rowan tree

Maureen Roberts, Chairman of FIPW