

FIPW 2024/25

An extremely wet year hampered some of our plans, however, the following activities that were completed:

- Improved dialogue and meetings with the Woodland Trust and our capital works funders, TOE
- The entrance “ransom strip” is now owned by the Woodland Trust
- Purchased and installed notice board at wood entrance
- TOE year 2 works completed with the installation of a second wildlife pond
- Vale Countryside Volunteers continued hedgerow management
- Bicester Green Gym have returned to help our monthly volunteer sessions
- Eight successful events were held throughout the year (Including our 25 year event)

Raising funds to dredge the pond continues to be challenging as it is deemed to be a maintenance activity that many grant funders do not support.

Current membership is 86, the same as last year, but down from 112 in 2022/23.

Membership fees ensure we have funds to maintain the wood. Major projects that are grant funded nearly always expect a capital project to be delivered, such as a new pond or scrape.

That means maintenance of the wood relies on membership fees and donations. If you use the wood for recreation, walking your dog or support our biodiversity objectives please consider becoming a member for £10 per person per year. All income is spent on developing the wood for the benefit of local residents.

The TOE (Trust for Oxfordshires Environment) grant is from with funding from Grondon Waste Management Ltd through the Landfill Communities Fund. Woodland thinning by Alchester Tree Services, pond installation by Tim Jenkins, hedging by Vale Countryside Volunteers.

Maintenance of the woodland requires an increasing commitment from our volunteers. Midweek sessions are held each month, supported again by Bicester Green Gym, and occasional weekend sessions for a wider group of members to participate in it's upkeep.

Tony Meacock Stood down from the Board at our AGM in March 2025. In the Interim, Rob Dowman will cover the treasurer role, with Chloe Bradford covering the Chair role. We therefore have a vacancy on our friendly Board and we will look to fill this when a volunteer comes forward.

At our AGM we were very pleased to have a guest speaker (Bob Roberts), who gave a short presentation on how an open field at risk of becoming a housing development led to the wonderful woodland that it is today. Launton Environmental Group (LEG) negotiated with Laings for The Woodland Trust to acquire the land with financial support from many villagers. LEG managed the woodland for several years before FIPW was formed in 2011. After 3 years of negotiating relatively minor points a 25 year lease was agreed with The Woodland Trust in 2014.

We thank all volunteers who join work sessions and assist with the running of the events that we publicise in Launton Lines and on social media. We thank the Launton Parish council for their continued support with the Grass cutting so our villagers and visitors can visit our lovely woodland, we also would like to thank the other organisations in the village that support us with a particular mention to the Launton Lines comms team and the WI organisation for their wonderful cakes which always sell out at various events.

We look forward to seeing you in the wood throughout the year.

Our next event is Saturday 24th May to celebrate World Biodiversity day

FIPW Team