

Annual Report (Mar 25-26)

Chair:

We have had another productive year in the woodland. I feel like we are really starting to see the rewards of our work over the last few years as the wildlife and habitats go from strength to strength. I am bias towards the nature side of things given my background, but it has also been a very rewarding year with the community events and engagement.

Some of my highlights were:

- Tadpoles found in the newest wildlife pond
- Confirmed presence of three rare butterflies (black, brown and purple hairstreak)
- Ongoing collaboration with the BBOWT led RBOR project
- Engagement with the school through walks, events and bug hotel
- Productive volunteer work sessions
 - Monthly Tuesday group
 - Ad hoc weekend sessions
 - Collaboration with VCV and BGG
- Four successful events
 - Cake and rake
 - Internation Day for Biodiversity
 - Minibeast Mayhem
 - Wreath making
- Installation of the remembrance pillar
- Pond dredging and scrape creation to mitigate flooding
- Being part of the village Christmas tree trail

Amongst all the wins however, there has been a loss that deeply affected many. Our dear friend and fellow volunteer, Isobel, sadly passed away in August. Isobel was a valued and well-loved part of the community since moving to the village with Mick a few years back. Her eagerness to get involved with local groups and initiatives was inspiring. Isobel's cakes always went down a treat at IPW volunteer sessions, and her bubbly personality and can-do attitude was a valued part of our events team, as well as her crafting skills. Since Isobels passing, we have been astounded by the outpouring of support from the community. The post box toppers, just giving pages and Christmas tree trail have all been a huge success and raised funds for more work in the woodland, as well as donations from the funeral. A huge thank you to individuals, businesses and everyone in between who have coordinated and supported these initiatives. And thank you to Isobels family for choosing to support the woodland. What a wonderful legacy for a wonderful lady.

And finally, just a note to say I am looking forward to the year ahead, with lots of exciting plans to follow. A huge thank you to everyone for your ongoing support.

Many Thanks.

Chloe Bradford (Chair, Friends of Island Pond Wood)