Reports submitted in lieu of an AGM in November 2021

Chairman's report: Kevin Shaw

Two very testing years are now behind us and thanks to the vaccine programme we are slowly starting to get back to normal, but a significant number of the "friends" continued to work in the park, for which we are very grateful. Hopefully in the spring we will be able to start the monthly working parties again.

FRIENDS OF MEADOW PARK – UPDATE REPORT 12/12/21

ARBORETUM, FOREST SCHOOL, ACCOUNTS, WORK PARTY

ARBORETUM: Andy Denker

Fortunately there have been no further trees dying in the Arboretum with the Downy Birch, Sweet Chestnut and Sweet Plum being the only ones over the year. We are at present looking to replace these trees with a supplier being located for the Birch and Chestnut with the Sweet Plum being unavailable which could be replaced by a Wild Pear. A long standing member of FOMP who was at the formation of the Park is looking at donating the cost of the trees and this is still in progress

The replacement Juniper is still in my back garden and will be planted next year in the spring.

FOREST SCHOOL: Ann Weekley

The School has been attending more regularly after the relaxation of the Covid rules. We have supplied various lengths of willow for the children to build dens along with other activities. The only down side has been the strip barking of 3 more trees in the area, the earlier tree which was damaged and has since died is being considered for felling to be used by the children for various activities.

WORK PARTY: Andy Denker

As you are aware the Covid restrictions throughout the year have curtailed the monthly work parties – no work on this basis was carried out in November 2020 and January to April 2021.

However due to a relaxation of the rules but in keeping with those in force at the time, work was carried out in December 2020 and May to October 2021

Unfortunately during this period it was only possible to work with a restricted number of volunteers, thus the work parties were not advertised to the full membership

Work carried out over these months covered general maintenance along with harvesting willow and willow weaving, coppicing and pollarding Sculpture Copse, opening up Sculpture border and adding more shrubs. Laying of ground grip squares under 4 seats.

Clear Oak Meadow ditch of brash and cut out dead wood. Planting of hazel and crab apple in various places. Repair various paths with arisings from Green Climber Flail.

Total Hours worked – 262

Whilst the monthly work parties were curtailed, the work by individual volunteers and those in pairs during the restrictions continued, more than making up the lost time.

Work carried out during this period – wild flower surveys, butterfly surveys. Stonebridge copse, clearance, coppicing, pollarding and hedge laying, planting of bulbs. Sculpture Alley, clearance, coppicing, pollarding and hedge laying, planting of bulbs, hazel. Oak Meadow Copse, clearance, coppicing, pollarding, and hedge laying, planting hazel.

Fitting of 2 new donated seats plus planting of bulbs. Fitting of new bird and bat boxes in various locations.

Lay wood chippings along Bateman rd path, assist with work carried out by the Green Climber flail, willow weaving, moving 'breedon' gravel from Bateman rd to store, planting bulbs in Sculpture border

A major thankyou to all our volunteers for their hard work and dedication throughout the last 12 months

Total Hours worked - 440

Overall Total Hours – 702

<u>ACCOUNTS: Andy Denker</u>

Balance in the account as at 31/10/21 - £2783.23

Comprising of general funds - £2287.62, Arboretum Fund - £496.10

Highlights – Arch Communications £1000 donation on 10th anniversary, new seat and bulbs. Donation of £604 for new seat on behalf of 'The East Leake Strollers'

Debits outstanding – Purchase of various tools, safety glasses and bulbs - £289.63

Overall balance on completion of above - £2493.60

AED 31/10/21

Funding Applications 2021-2022

One application has been put forward for consideration. It is for £543.00 to Rushcliffe Borough Council Biodiversity Support Grant. It is for a battery powered brush cutter and line trimmer. It is to be used in and around the arboretum and to maintain areas around seats, wildflower seedings and so forth. Unfortunately, RBC funds are exhausted for this financial year but I am informed our application will be considered for 2022-2023.

Our Parish Council is committed to a green initiative and though expensive this is the way forward for our partnership with RBC and ELPC. We have already planned a unified approach to the acquisition of tools for both St Mary's Churchyard and Friends of Meadow Park.

Alan Barlow

7 Dec 2021

Butterfly Report 2021 Kevin Gibbons

There were 21 butterfly species recorded in the park this year, and it was pleasing to see a good number of the beautiful yellow Brimstone butterflies visiting and laying eggs on nearly all of the Alder Buckthorn plants that we put in the park in previous years. There was also a really good abundance of wild flowers across the park, and the new Butterfly bank attracted good numbers of Common Blue butterflies as well as the uncommon Small Copper butterfly. Plans for next year include enhancements to the butterfly bank, and the planting of more native wildflowers.

Secretary's Report 2021 Kevin Gibbons

Due to Covid restrictions and concerns, we have not had any meetings this year. However the Committee does keep in touch via e-mail, and the general work in the park has continued (under controlled conditions), with lots of work mainly led by Andy Denker, adding great value to the park. Amongst other things this has included installing new benches, bulb planting, maintenance of the willow trees and willow structure, creation of more bee worlds, hedge laying etc. Everything keeps moving forward and the park continues to improve year on year and is a great asset to the village.