



## Friends of Ecclesall Woods

Newsletter July 2013.

[www.friendsofecclesallwoods.org.uk](http://www.friendsofecclesallwoods.org.uk)



Chair/Editor: Linda Evans, 2585346  
Membership: Lorna Baker, 2369025

It's turned into a wonderful year for elderflowers. Currently, there is a heatwave which looks set for the next few weeks, and people are already grumbling about the heat. It's nice and cool walking in the Woods. Meanwhile, Happy Holidays.

### **MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL LAST CHANCE.**

**If you haven't renewed yet, please do it NOW.**

#### **FEW Events and Activities**

Mon 16 Sept. 7 pm, Sycamore Suite, Discovery Centre. Quiz in aid of Christian Aid. Bring your friends, and your own drinks too. Everyone Welcome.

Thursday 14 Nov. 7.30 pm. Hector's House, Discovery Centre. Annual General Meeting. More details later. However, Linda Evans, Chairman, is retiring at this meeting. If you want to be FEW's Chairman, please get in touch with Lorna Baker, 2369025.

## **Kids' Activities at the Woodland Discovery Centre this Summer.**

### **Woodland Activities, 5-9 Aug.**

“If you are aged 7-13 and are looking for adventure, come and join us! Learn new skills, play woodland games, make woodland art and create campfires to cook on. Woodland days run 9.30am-3.30pm from the Woodland Discovery Centre, Ecclesall Woods. The cost: £34 per child per day including a snack or £160/child for the week”

For more information and to book, visit [www.wildwoodactivities.co.uk](http://www.wildwoodactivities.co.uk), or call Lauren Stevens on 07735 389804.

### **Family Wild Play, every Tuesday through the summer holidays. 10-12pm and 1-3pm.**

23 July.	Build a bug hotel
30 July	Fairies and Elves
6 Aug	Stream Dipping
13 Aug	Survival Challenge
20 Aug	Myths and Magic
27 Aug.	Teddy Bear picnic and Campfire Cooking

Come and join us, meeting at the Wildlife Discovery Centre. Outdoor clothes, sensible footwear. Children must be accompanied by an adult. £4 per child, under 2's free. To book, call 0114 2356348

### **Theatre in the Woods.**

Summer Course for 9-12 year olds. 21-23 August, 10am-4pm.

This course includes learning from professional theatre directors, sustainable woodcraft skills, building outdoor sets and props, developing ranger skills and producing a unique performance in the woods. 3 days, £60. Book at [growtheatre.org.uk](http://growtheatre.org.uk), or phone 07745 465391

If you can't make this, Growtheatre will be running weekly youth theatre sessions in the woods from September onwards.

All at Woodland Discovery Centre.

### **Woodland Toddler Group.**

Every Friday, 9.30-11.30am, at the Woodland Discovery Centre. Bring a snack to share. Suggested donation £2 per family. Contact [woodlandtoddlergroup@gmail.com](mailto:woodlandtoddlergroup@gmail.com) for more information and to book.

This is an outdoor playgroup; dress appropriately.

## **Ecclesall Woods Craft Courses.**

A full programme through the summer. Find details at [ecclesallwoodscraftcourses.co.uk](http://ecclesallwoodscraftcourses.co.uk).

Just to whet your appetite:

Make a rustic jointed stool, Sat 27 July

Basic Woodcarving. Sunday 18 August

Make your own Garden Bench. Sunday 15 Sept.

Heating your Home with Wood. Sun 22 Sept.

And many more. Do have a look.

## Bird Song Walks

There were 2 birdsong walks this spring, both led by Paul Medforth. The Dawn Chorus walk at 6am on 20 April was chilly but enjoyable for the 6 members present.



Heron chick in nest. BBC photo.

17 species were recorded. The only migrant was the chiff-chaff, who had arrived about 3 weeks later than usual. There were 6-8 occupied nests in the heron colony.

The walk at 8 am on 18 May was also chilly, and 6 people were also present for this. 18 species were heard, and most of these seen. By this date we could watch and hear heron chicks.

## Environment Week Walks.

The bluebell walk was set for 4 May, which would normally have been at the height of the bluebell season. This year's cold spring meant that the bluebells were not yet in flower by 4 May. Nonetheless, Monica conducted the walk with a member of the Ecology Group and 2 young men who were interested, and an interesting walk was had by all.

The archaeology walk took place on

## Joint Walk to Ladies' Spring Wood with Beauchief Environment Group.

Poorly attended but really interesting. It seems that the interest in this sort of event is very limited, and it might be better to stop offering them. If you feel strongly about this, let me know.

## Beating the Bounds, 20 July



A great evening. A walk round the woods, barbecue cooked on a large grill by David Garnham, chat and laughter and happy children. There were only 16 people there, and we could easily have accommodated twice that. What was it? The weather? Start of school holidays? Or just not appealing? Please let me know.

## Saturday Watch Club

Jo Oldcorn volunteered to run the Saturday mornings, expecting other voluntary help to be available. This didn't happen. As a result, Jo found running the club alone too much, and very much restricted by Health and Safety considerations, so she resigned.

Nell Dixon, the new Ranger at the Woodland Discovery Centre, would very much like to start the Watch Club again. Two volunteers have been found, on a limited basis, but more are needed before the Watch Club can start again. Anyone who is willing to volunteer should get it touch with Nell, on 2356348.

## Ecology Group



Members are doing their surveys of woodland flowers, each in their own areas. Who would have thought nettle flowers could look so beautiful?

Sue Jackson and Liz Emm are looking after the vegetation survey in the Donkey Field.

Steve Terry will look after the Bird Group in future, and arrange bird walks with Paul Medforth.

## Footpath Group



Digging drains, clearing fallen trees, repairing paths, clearing Himalayan Balsam .... We owe so much of the look of the Woods to the Footpath Group and their weekly efforts. In the pic, some of them are clearing a drain back in March. And just 2 volunteers spread the 40 tons of path material which has been blocking the entrance opposite Beauchief Gardens for some months, after Tom the Ranger had moved it mechanically.

## Henk Littlewood, ex-Ranger.

Some of you may remember Henk from his time working in Sheffield South-West, and the description of the Rangers work he wrote for this Newsletter. He lost his job in the recent cuts, and is now making hand-made, hardwood furniture. See pictures at [www.henkswoodwork.co.uk](http://www.henkswoodwork.co.uk), or ring 07794564227

