

AGM 18 April 2018

Well I keep saying it and every year it's true, it's been another great year for the Friends of Bilbrook and yet again we've achieved so much in the last 12 months:

Here's what we've done:

Attended riverfly training with the EA

Restored parts of the Moat Brook

Built the Forest classroom and willow hedge

Hosted the school children at the brook for pond dipping and bug hunting

Held a balsam bash with the National Citizens Scheme

Held a balsam bash with the Beavers

Held a balsam bash with JLR employees

Held a balsam bash with Bilbrook Middle and Codsall High Schools

Held the Great British Spring Clean

Held the Bilbrook schools litter picks

Held another evening bat walk

Held the British Garden Bird Watch

Purchased scythes and equipment with money from the One stop shop and held a day's scythe training including cutting our wild flower meadow

Planted hundreds more bulbs in the jubilee wood some of which are blooming right now

Made more bat and bird boxes with the scouts

Held another small mammal survey with Rodbaston College

Cleaned the Bilbrook War Memorial

Cleaned Bilbrook Railway Station sign

Planted 10 trees along the road verges in the village

Planted 105 more trees in the jubilee wood

Held another quiz night raising £231

We've even got a member on the parish council.

We're so successful now that people are even giving us money without us asking for it; Mid Counties Co-op have recently donated £800 to us from their plastic carrier bag scheme.

Some projects to look forward to in the future include the imminent siting of the Jubilee Wood sign on Watery Lane, an extension of the footpath network, more river restoration work, the creation of a circular walk between Joeys Lane and the Jubilee Wood, bird ringing with the Brewood ringers, a community orchard, a seasonal pond and maybe even a wetlands area.....not much then!

Once again, I would like to thank all the committee for their hard work and support especially to Annette for making sure I keep on the straight and narrow and tempering my ambitions. I'd also like to thank Jackie for being our secretary and putting out the minutes and excellent emails to our followers and carrying out the regular water health checks in the Moat Brook. Thanks must also go to Ryan Taylor and his colleagues at South Staffs Council for their continued support. And of course, I would like to thank you all for all your hard work in coming out and helping us with our work.

In the first couple of years it was a struggle and it felt like everyone was conspiring against us, but now we are where I hoped we would be, with a huge legacy to leave the village with, and with organisations approaching us to work with them and even giving us money due to the good work we do in the community.

So I will conclude to say, yet again, how proud I am to be a Friend of Bilbrook.