

Friends of Bilbrook
Secretary's Report
April 2016

I have held the post of Secretary for one year now and offer my thanks to the other committee members for their commitment and support. The past year has been an active one for Friends of Bilbrook despite our small group size. We have held 8 committee meetings during the year discussing a range of issues relating to Bilbrook and how Friends of Bilbrook can contribute something positive to the health and living environment of the people and wildlife that surrounds us. Minutes of each meeting have been recorded to ensure proper follow up consideration is given to each issue. Projects such as the placing of decorated tiles at Bilbrook station have been ongoing throughout the year but with a final date for siting of the tiles planned for this coming summer. This shows us that some projects take longer than others to bring into effect, but are worth persevering with.

I continue to send out emails to around 50 supporters/local residents informing them of upcoming events including litter picks, tree planting at Jubilee Wood, daffodil bulb planting and our very enjoyable skittles social evening. Emails sent out during the year also include those to let residents know about health and environmental related events arranged by other local organisations including Forest of Mercia, Bilbrook Parish Council and South Staffordshire Council. Liasing with other bodies can be challenging at times but is also very helpful. For example, I attended the District Council offices at the start of 2016 with some of the other committee members to liase with other local Friends Groups. We gained some useful insight into their experiences and following on from that an occasional chairman's get together has been arranged so the Friends Groups can share useful contact details and best practice. It has been recognised by the Chief Executive of the District Council that Friends Groups, such as Friends of Bilbrook, are very valuable in helping local residents to positively help themselves to a better way of living. With that in mind I hope to be a part of giving a hand to help in the forthcoming year.

Jackie Hannaford
April 2016