

Friends of Bilbrook Secretary's Report 2017-2018

I have continued to enjoy another year as Friends of Bilbrook secretary. Of course the Secretary role involves a degree of paperwork, including preparing agendas and minutes for the 6 committee meetings held this year, sending emails to followers to invite them to our events and to remind them of Friends of Bilbrook's achievements, as well as other relevant local events. 94 people are sent those emails, which includes the Committee members. The number of followers receiving emails has remained roughly even throughout the year.

As well as those tasks, I am also able to take an active role in the Friends of Bilbrook volunteering activities. During this year I have learnt some new skills, including how to identify river flies and use this as a measure of the health of Moatbrook. I also monitor the water quality of Moatbrook in two locations every month and report findings back to Waterside Care. Despite recent problems with silt emissions into that watercourse, the range of aquatic life and the quality of the water remains good. With our ongoing river restoration work, the summer balsam bashing on the banks of the stream, and the local children's pond dipping and pooh stick sessions, Moatbrook continues to be at the centre of a lot of what I enjoy about the Friends of Bilbrook. Long may that continue!