

Introduction to WatersideCare

WatersideCare is a partnership between Keep Britain Tidy, Canal & River Trust, Severn Trent Water and Environment Agency. We work with volunteer groups mainly in the West Midlands to help them look after their local waterways including brooks, lakes, rivers and canals. Tasks include removing litter, dealing with invasive plants, water quality testing and carrying out wildlife surveys. There are currently over thirty WatersideCare groups. Project sites include Birmingham, Dudley, Sandwell, Solihull, Walsall and Wolverhampton plus Nottinghamshire, Lincolnshire and Warwickshire.

Friends of Bilbrook DIARY

| Date 2014 | Event | Participants |
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| 11 June | Introduction by Lee Coplestone on the Organisation at Perton Library | Della |
| 23 June | Pond Dipping in the Moat Brook at Bilbrook | Keith Elder (Wild about Perton), Della Kerrigan, Chris Sproson, Sylvia Jenkins and some 6 or 7 local lads. |
| 4 July | Telephone Contact with the Environment Agency to establish a contact person from the Conservation and Ecology Team who deal with Pond Life and Biodiversity. Alex McDonald 01543 405099. COMMITTEE AGREES TO FORMALLY SIGN UP TO WORK WITH WATERSIDE CARE Della to be the FoB Lead Representative | Della and full committee support. |
| 7 August | <u>WATERSIDECARE EVENT.</u> Meeting with Lee Coplestone and Tim Brooks. We walked the length of the Bilbrook stretch of Moat Brook. Very productive discussions followed up by email from Tim. (with helpful links) Requested a Committee Meeting so Chris and I can share the information. Chris and I both made phone calls to follow up on questions we have about the local green spaces. | Della and Chris |
| 21 August | Returned the equipment form to Lee Coplestone with sizes of items as requested. Lee will deliver the water testing kit on 1 st September and hopefully the other equipment so we can start the programme. | DK |
| 8 September | Lee enrolled me and Chris on First Aid for 31.10.14 and we have the confirmation by email. | Lee Coplestone |
| 10 September | <u>WATERSIDECARE EVENT</u> Lee came over to Bilbrook and 5 of us carried out the water testing. We found the spot between two logs where we will regularly test the water. We identified two locations and the results were good. These results are being sent to Waterside Care on the recording sheet. Today's volunteers were Della Kerrigan, Chris | Lee and Friends of Bilbrook KL; DP; CS; DK |

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| | <p>Sproson, Keri Lloyd, David Preece. We also noted many other features of the location; fish, large and small holes in the riverbank, an outflow of water just downstream, a healthy environment for creatures with many tree roots and combination of sun and shade.</p> <p>Chris and I have arranged to test the water past the sewage works and by the Bridge on Tuesday 16th September at 10.30am.</p> | |
| 16 September | <p><u>WATERSIDECARE EVENT</u> Chris and I went with all the H&S gear to the Brook and were out for 2 ½ hours today. We hoped to reach the part of the Moat Brook beyond the Sewage works but had to turn back due to tall thick undergrowth. We did however test the water in two places; under the Bridge and further down at the Dam where it looks and smells stagnant. I completed the Testing Record and sent it to Lee today.</p> | CS and DK |
| 24 September | <p><u>CRAYFISH SURVEY POSTPONED</u></p> | TB unable to attend. |
| 26 September | <p><u>MEETING with Ryan Taylor.</u> We met at the Council Offices to discuss the way forward for “working together” towards a vision for the use of the land along the part of the Moat Brook owned by the District Council. Very helpful and inspiring meeting. Further meeting agreed in 6 weeks to keep momentum going. Next step to have a Habitat Survey and consider long term vision and five year action plan.</p> | SJ, CS and DK |
| 7 October | <p><u>OCTOBER EVENT</u> Five of us (KL,CS,DK,and an adult and child friend) Went to test the water and the photographer took pictures of the process and recording. She also photographed Keri collecting litter out of the brook. This will be made into a collage for our display board. It was a cool evening after rain with a beautiful harvest moon. I sent the results to Lee, this is our 4th session of testing and the only differential is the temperature.</p> | KL,CS,DK,Jess and Clare Stevens. |
| 24 October 9am-12 | <p><u>WATERSIDECARE EVENT WITH BILBROOK MIDDLE SCHOOL.</u> This was a very successful morning held during the school’s Activities Week just before half term. We took a Year 5 class of 29 children who had made their own Pooh Sticks to race. Half the class were pond dipping then</p> | Kate Boot Science Teacher and Sarah Lee TA. Lee Copplestone from WatersideCare; KL, CS and DK from FoB. |

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| | they changed over to record the time of their sticks racing. It rained but the children didn't complain and remained on task the whole time. They are a credit to their school. | |
| 13 November | WATER TESTING beyond the sewage works. POSTPONED DUE TO BAD WEATHER | CS;AL;DK |
| 16 December | <u>WATERSIDECARE EVENT AND SPORTS COACHING</u> Year 6 Activity Week. 9am-12 noon 28 members of Year 6 spent an hour at the MUGA and an hour at the Brook. They had made bird feeders from milk bottles and inserted perches and filled them with seed. They tied them to trees along by the brook. The activity included pond dipping, pooh sticks from the bridge, and water testing. It was hugely successful and we are grateful to Lee Coplestone once more for his excellent support and involvement. | KL; DK; KB; LC; AL End of 2014 events |

2015

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| January | Inclement weather and we agreed to have a Friends of Bilbrook break and resume in Feb. | |
| 11 February | <u>WATERSIDECARE EVENT</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sampled and tested water from Moat Brook beside the Sewage Works • Planted an Alder sapling that we'd nurtured for a year • Used a grappling hook to secure branches from the flight path for owls to the owl box • Dragged a shopping trolley and exhaust pipe from the brook • Cleared out rubbish from the outlet pipe • Collected a full bin liner of rubbish from around the area | KL, CS, DH |
| 17 March | <u>WATERSIDECARE EVENT</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tested the water and sent results to W Care • Collected bags of litter retrieved a drainpipe from the Brook and an office chair from nearby and put it out on the pavement for collection. | 3 people |
| 20 May | <u>WATERSIDE CARE EVENT</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building our first hibernacula. | 4 people |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tested the water • Collected litter in and around the Brook • Retrieved loads of balloons and air rifle cartridges lying around on the bank, the path, and in the brook. | |
| 6 June | <p><u>WATERSIDECARE EVENT</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Balsam Bash – lifted 1500 shoots in 2 hours! • Tested the water • Installed owl nesting box • Build second hibernacula | 6 people |
| 3 July | <p><u>WATERSIDE CARE EVENT</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Event with Year 4 children from Lane Green First School • The activity included pond dipping, pooh sticks in the brook, • Tested the water at the crossing point. It was hugely successful. • The children removed around 20 house bricks from the brook. | 28 children 10 adults |
| 7 August | <p><u>WATERSIDE CARE EVENT</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We picked up 2 and a half bags of litter from along both sides of the brook, noting a definite increase in plastic bottles and sweet/crisp wrappers. This is probably due to school summer holidays. • We were joined by one local resident and her two sons aged 6 and 5. • Tested the water in two places – the oak tree and the bridge • Pulled out more strands of Himalayan Balsam as we went | 3 adults 2 children |
| 27 August | <p><u>WATERSIDE CARE EVENT</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collected 4 bags of litter – including a scooter helmet and metal cage • Pulled out 2000 strands of Himalayan Balsam • Tested the water at the bridge and downstream near the sewage works where the brook is almost blocked by debris. | 14 members of Wolverhampton NCS 2 committee members |
| 22 September | <p><u>Crayfish survey to be carried out</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tim Brooks couldn't make it so survey | 4 Adults |

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| | <p>was cancelled.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tested the water in two places – the fallen tree and the bridge. • Collected 2 bags of litter. | |
| 7 October 2015 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Litterpick rubbish near fallen willow. • 2 bags collected | 1 Adult |
| 24 October | <p><u>WATERSIDE CARE EVENT</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water was tested in two places • Bilbrook and codsall scouts joined us to put up 4 bat boxes they had made and 3 bird boxes • 4 bags of litter collected including bag of pipework and 2 laptops. | 9 scouts 6 adults |
| 30 November 15 | <p><u>WATERSIDE CARE EVENT</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water tested in two places • 2 bags of rubbish collected including sky digibox and sleeping bag | 2 adults |
| 4 December | <p><u>WATERSIDE CARE EVENT</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 500 trees planted which had been donated by Forest Schools Birmingham • Children from Lane Green First School, Bilbrook Middle School and Cannock college planted trees. | 3 committee members 2 staff from Forest Schools Birmingham 30 children and 5 staff from Lane Green First School, 30 children and 2 members of staff from Bilbrook Middle school 20 students from Cannock college and 4 staff. |
| | <u>2016</u> | |
| 23 January | <p><u>WATERSIDE CARE EVENT</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water tested in three places • Replanted 10 trees which had been pulled out • Collected 1 bag of rubbish | 2 adults |
| 22 February | <p><u>WATERSIDE CARE EVENT</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water tested in two places • Three bags of litter collected | 4 adults |
| 5 April | <p><u>WATERSIDE CARE EVENT</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water tested in two places • 6 bags of litter collected including a bread basket. | 3 adults and 2 teenagers |