

Friends of STOCKER'S LAKE



NEWSLETTER NO. 88 Sept 2021

MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIR Nigel Daley

A big welcome to all our new FoSL members that joined at the recent recruitment drive. This was our first recruitment drive in nearly two years and I am pleased to say that our numbers are still relatively healthy given the situation that we have found ourselves in over the last 20 months. Thanks to all who have renewed membership, those £5 really do allow us to make the difference on the Reserve.

It will be nice to see both the 'new' and 'old' faces at the forthcoming AGM which is being held at the Mill End Baptist church on Wednesday 1st December 2021 at 7.30 pm. Our speaker is Nick Maksimovic, our esteemed grazier who will be speaking on 'matters bovine and countryside issues in general'. Nick was originally booked for the April 2020 AGM so I am very pleased that we have kept the booking and we all look forward to hearing from this highly knowledgeable and entertaining friend of FoSL.

Many thanks to Simon Jones who is looking into updating our FoSL website for undertaking the questionnaire and primary research into what members want from the website and how it needs to be shaped for the future. Future proofing the digital end of FoSL is a necessary and vital part of moving forward over the next 10 years. Thanks also to those members who completed the questionnaire, the response rate was up to 'Mori Poll' standard, a mark of how our members are interested in 'these new modern ways of communicating' and also how professionally the questionnaire was put together in the first instance by Simon.

The flora on the reserve itself has not stopped growing over various lockdowns, indeed given such a warm and wet Summer, growth has been 'jungle like'. Whilst there has been a number of socially distanced work parties, usually involving one or two people over the Summer, we feel that now is about the right time to invite our work party members back onto the reserve for the first Sunday of each month. Any members wishing to volunteer please check with our lead Warden, Jack

Westbrook (jack.westbrook695@gmail.com) in the first instance (please note that January and Easter work parties dates can alter due to clashing with Christmas and Easter). This year, we trialed the small scale continuation of work parties beyond Easter and this seemed to be a success without causing a great disruption to the nesting birds; perhaps this may continue into next year and beyond?

Development threats seem to be a constant battle on and around the reserve (indeed as it is throughout the Colne Valley at the moment) whether that be Hillingdon to the South of the reserve or Three Rivers everywhere else and even 'High Speed 2' up the Colne Valley. Just where will they find all that water needed to lubricate the drilling rig on the Wendover, Chiltern and Northolt Tunnels?

Our friends at HMWT and Groundwork South (Stewart Pomeroy) and Affinity have been quite vocal in their challenge to the proposed development of a lorry park at Maple Cross (see planning application 21/0573/FUL). We ourselves have objected to this development and we have also given our backing to Stewart at Groundwork South in their objections on environmental grounds.

Finally, perhaps we should remember that we, at FoSL (650 members), must keep our collective and individual eyes on the ball with regard to developers and their spurious ways.

And now to matters more positive, see you at the AGM on the 1st December.

**Wednesday 1st December at 7.30 pm finishing
at 9.30 pm at Mill End Baptist Church, Field
Way, Rickmansworth WD3 7EL**

Speaker: Nick Maksimovic our grazier.

Friends of Stocker's Lake is a registered charity No. 1080501. It aims to support conservation at Stocker's Lake Local Nature Reserve.

www.fosl.org.uk

www.facebook.com/friendsOfStokersLake

Twitter @FoStokersLake

Treasurer's Report

Dick Beeden

This time last year I wrote a report on our 2019 finances because there was no opportunity to present the accounts for approval at an AGM that year due to lockdown. This year the 2020 accounts will be presented at the AGM in December. However as that is still some way off and 2020 becoming a distant memory, I thought it might be of interest and by way of a spoiler to tell you here that the 2020 accounts ended the year in rude health with a balance as shown in the audited accounts of £21,360, up on the previous year and this year is likely to end on a similar sum.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Work Parties

Sunday 3 October 2021
Sunday 7 November 2021
Sunday 5 December 2021
Sunday 2 January 2022

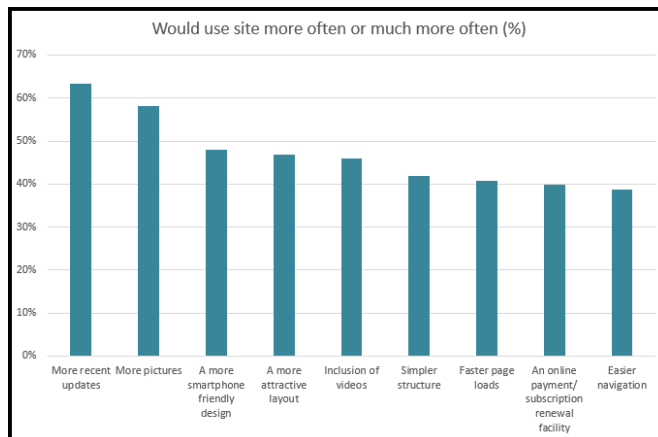
Meet at Fisherman's Car Park end of reserve 0955 hrs unless otherwise directed. Any members wishing to volunteer please check with our lead Warden, Jack Westbrook (jack.westbrook695@gmail.com) in the first instance.

FoSL Website Refresh – Update

Simon Jones

Thank you to everyone (164 of you altogether - a great response) who recently completed our online survey about our website (www.fosl.org.uk). We have used the results to generate a two page specification of desired enhancements and we are now in the process of issuing that to various third parties who we hope might be interested in revamping the site for us.

As background the current version of our website dates from 2013. In technology terms that is a long time ago. Newer sites can take advantage of various technology upgrades, some of which we would ourselves like to exploit in the future.



The chart shows which potential enhancements were rated through our survey as being most likely to lead to existing users of the website using it more often (or much more often) in the future. We hope to address at least the top six of these (i.e. down to and including "Simpler Structure") in the revamped version of the site.

The next stage of this project will be to appoint a contractor to design and build a new site for us. All going well we then hope for a website relaunch either towards the end of 2021 or in early 2022. In the meantime we shall keep you posted via news articles on the current site.

Wildflower Walk Sunday 20 June 2021

Linda Ascroft

Little did we know when we did the Wildflower Walk in June 2019 that we would not be joining together for another until June 2021.

In 2020 Janet Lowndes and I undertook Wildflower counts around Stocker's Lake which we shared with our members. Therefore, the continuity of the surveys has not been lost. However, it is not the same as having like minded FoSL members to share the experience with.

Janet and I were joined by John, Chris, Tina, Russell and Alison on a dull but dry day. Keeping our social distancing, we were able to identify a good number of wildflowers.

Below is a list of those we found. Not quite as many as we have seen in previous years which was perhaps due to the amount of nettles, grasses and bindweed that had grown up along the paths over the past year.



Russian Comfrey
 Germander Speedwell
 Nipplewort
 Common Ragwort
 Yellow Flag
 Hedge Bindweed
 Hedge Mustard
 Dittander
 Yarrow
 Branched Bur-reed
 Bittersweet
 Bramble
 Cut-leaved Crane's-bill
 Cow Parsley
 Ribwort Plantain
 Creeping Thistle
 Cleavers
 White Dead Nettle
 Smooth Sow-thistle
 Water Chickweed
 Broad-leaved Dock
 Goat's Beard
 Greater Plantain
 Creeping Cinquefoil
 Elder
 Great Willowherb
 Common Nettle
 Green Alkanet
 Creeping Buttercup
 Greater Burdock
 Hogweed
 Herb Robert
 Field Forget-me-not
 Hedge Woundwort
 Hemp Agrimony
 Spear Thistle
 Dove's-foot Crane's-bill
 Dandelion
 Water Mint

Hedge Bedstraw
 Common Comfrey
 Hemlock Water-dropwort
 Dog Rose
 Meadowsweet
 Wood Avens
 Common Knapweed
 Common Figwort
 Garlic Mustard
 Broad-leaved Helleborine
 Shepherd's Purse
 Red Dead-nettle
 Red Campion
 Meadow Crane's-bill
 Red Clover
 Oxeye Daisy
 Pineapple weed
 Tufted Vetch
 Buckthorn
 Daisy
 Wood Dock
 Hop Trefoil
 Viola
 Enchanter's Nightshade
 Traveller's-joy (clematis/old man's beard)
 Stinking Iris
 Lesser Stitchwort
 Gypsywort
 Ground Ivy
 Coltsfoot
 Silverweed
 Common Valerian
 Dog's mercury
 Celery-leave Buttercup
 Knotgrass
 Common Orache
 White clover
 Orange balsam
 Prickly Sow-thistle
 Angelica
 Bryony
 Hedge Bindweed
 Wild White Bryony
 Black Bryony
 Fat-hen
 Red Bartsia (seen in 2nd cattle meadow)
 Ivy
 Common Hop (seen in Aquadrome)
 Spindle (seen on path near iron bridge)
 Hedge Bedstraw
 Spear thistle
 Guelder Rose



Butterfly and Dragonfly Walk : Sunday 8 August 2021 Linda Ascroft, Events Co-ordinator

Sad to say, that this year's Butterfly and Dragonfly Walk will not be the highlight of our FoSL calendar.

Alex Liddle had, as in previous years, agreed to identify, for which I am very grateful. Unfortunately, apart from Rob and Anna Liddle we had no other FoSL members join us.

It was a dull and overcast day, not the best weather for butterflies and dragonflies but nevertheless...

We quickly saw our first moth (not to discredit moths but we'll take anything when the day is so bad) which Alex identified as a Mother of Pearl moth. We spent an hour wandering through the meadows and along part of the River Colne and apart from seeing another couple of Mother of Pearl moths (which we are not completely sure wasn't the same one that followed us), that was our grand total.



Recruitment Day 19 September 2021

Russell Ball Recruitment Officer

The rain held off on Sunday 19th October for our recruitment day with the valued help of eight FoSL volunteers*. We covered three two hour shifts and are pleased to report that 16 new members signed-up: may I take this opportunity to welcome them to FoSL.

Bob Sherren also popped in – on his way to walk round the Lake to do a litter pick and to help us put up the gazebo.

It was also the first outing for our sumup card reader. So now people can pay their subs and or make a donation even if they have no cash on them. Watch this space!

* Linda Ascroft, Susan Thomas, Nicola Pazdziarska, Eileen Petch, Martin Taylor, Evelyn Fox, Alison Marriott and Ken Davies



Used ink cartridges

Dick Beeden

Would you like to raise a little money for FoSL and help save the planet at the same time?

Recycle4charity is a company recycling empty ink cartridges. Rather than paying you a few pence for each cartridge sent or simply taking them off your hands they pay the postage and a donation to the charity of your choice. FoSL has registered with the company so FoSL can be your charity of choice. How much they pay depends on the brand and type of cartridge. If the cartridge is not an original manufacture i.e. a compatible or such like, the donated amount may be less or nothing but you can still recycle them with this company rather than the cartridge going to landfill.

Based on my HP printer it is about 10p per cartridge and I have accumulated about 17 cartridges. So not a lot but something. That is by the way 10 times what I might get if I sent them to a commercial recycling provider who pays me rather than a charity

We have about 500 members for whom we have an email address and who are therefore likely to have a printer and hence empty cartridges. So potentially that is quite a lot of cartridges and quite a few 10ps and a lot of landfill saved.

You choose your charity from a list which includes Friends of Stockers Lake alongside charities like RSPB for example.

Laser and toner cartridges are not included in the

charity donation scheme but you can still use this site to recycle them but separately

So get recycling, save the planet and help your favourite charity all at the same time.

As they say every little helps

<https://www.recycle4charity.co.uk>

Check it out.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND CONTACT DETAILS

Nigel Daley (Chairman)	01923 282844
Dick Beeden (Treasurer & membership)	0208 4219958
Jack Westbrook (Work Party Organiser)	07716 296093 01923 448 316
Larry Hurst (Fundraiser, Publicity)	01923 848440
Simon Jones (Web Site)	01923 285763
Linda Ascroft (Events organiser)	07791 971323
Susan Thomas (Newsletter editor and Data Protection Officer)	01923 240764 susanethomas@btinternet.com
Russell Ball (Membership recruitment)	07884 426671
Bob Sherren (Volunteers organiser)	07929 394120 bob_sherren@hotmail.com
Steve Carter (Wildlife recorder)	07917 796976 Text preferred
Nicola Pazdzierska	nvpaz1@yahoo.com
Carina Scales	scalescj@icloud.com

Leaving a Lasting Legacy

If you enjoy nature, a legacy can ensure the future of our wonderful reserve. Please consider leaving a Gift to Friends of Stocker's Lake in your Will. There are inheritance tax advantages of leaving a legacy to a Charity.