

DONINGTON & ALBRIGHTON LOCAL NATURE RESERVE

We are delighted to see our work has paid off clearing part of the bank next to the Jubilee walk by Donington Pool. Many bulbs and plants including bluebells, daffodils and primroses which were being smothered by brambles have appeared and these will increase as time goes by.

Talking of bluebells – the Conservation Area behind the locked gate will be accessible to view the bluebell display over the w/end 28/29th April. If we haven't gauged the optimal flowering time correctly (increasingly difficult in the face of climate change), the gate will be open the following w/end too. Many of us enjoyed the snowdrops, we hope you'll enjoy the bluebells too. As before dogs are welcome in this area, but on leads please.

Whilst we're talking dates I'll mention the Civic Society Event at the Red House on Saturday 14th April. There are about 40 village groups and societies, a lot of which a lot of us don't know about. We'll be there and would love to have a chance to inspire you to join us.

The winter wasn't kind to any of us over school age and the Reserve suffered with the rest of us. However we've been busy trying to put things right by removing fallen trees and branches, clearing the Dipping Pool of debris and implementing more land drainage in the Meadow where it always gets so muddy.

Something we can't take credit for is the clearing of the Alder Carr by St Cuthbert's Pool. This work was carried out on behalf of the County Council to facilitate the strengthening of the bridge over Rectory Road by the weir.

Talking of bridges, unfortunately the bridge in the Nature Reserve nearest the fire station is still in danger of collapsing due to bank erosion but we are hoping to reinforce the bank very soon.

The weather seriously curtailed our bonfire activities, always a highlight, but at least most of the ash is organised into piles now.

Following the St George's Day service in St Magdalen's church on Sunday 22nd April and the following Scout Parade, the District Scouts will be dismissed in Rectory Road. We are delighted to welcome the Scouts into the Meadow afterwards where various events will take place. The Meadow will of course remain open to everyone else but we must insist dogs are kept on leads during those events.

As ever we hope very much you may come and join us, or just hang around for a chat, on Thurs 19th April, our next volunteering day. Paul Fallon (paul@ifallon.com) will be happy to give further information

Clare Bolitho