

DONINGTON & ALBRIGHTON LOCAL NATURE RESERVE

There were times last month when the Meadow, Donington and St Cuthbert's Pool almost joined forces to become one large reservoir. The rainfall we experienced was exceptional and yet the water flowed with little impedance throughout our Reserve. This is the result of much ongoing hard work we do to keep the water channels clear by the removal of all sorts of debris, not all of it vegetable. Tyres, tents, countless bottles bags and tins, a sleeping bag, fishing equipment, underwear, balls – all have been removed from the various water courses in the Reserve.

The rush of water through the Reserve brought its own problems, mainly deposition of brash and disruption of the hard core on the Meadow paths and wood chip in the Reserve, all of which have been resolved to the best of our ability. We were relieved and delighted the bridges built for us by the RAF many year ago in the Meadow withstood the force of the water despite the fact they were completely submerged for some time. The sandbags placed at weak points along the banks also helped retain their integrity.

Although the Meadow has now become a bit of a muddy morass we have enjoyed some fabulous Autumn colour and our laboriously constructed dry hedge line will be providing shelter for a wide range of species.

The bird table now sports a not very fetching recycled plastic cladding. This has been added as an optimistic squirrel deterrent. For those Sciuridaephiles amongst us food is also placed on the floor around the table.

The bird hide in the Conservation area is looking fantastic and has been constructed almost entirely of recycled materials, including the pallets many people donated. The odd finishing touches are being made, such as the planting of a willow hedge either side of the hide to act as a screen. The willow shoots were harvested from the large willow carr remnants by the side of the Pool. Once completed an opening date will be announced.

Our next Volunteer date is Thursday 5th December. Please come and help us care for our Reserve. Paul Fallon will be happy to give you more details (paulfallon6@gmail.com)