

DONINGTON & ALBRIGHTON LOCAL NATURE RESERVE

Even though the Nature Reserve has been around for over 20 years there are a lot of people living here who don't realise its potential, not only as a dog walking facility or a short cut from the fire station but as an adventure playground, an outdoor gym, a learning centre. We became aware of this lack of visibility and need for self promotion earlier this year and as a result have used the last couple of months to introduce, or reintroduce some of the children of Albrighton to it.

The Scouts and Cubs have come on several occasions throughout June and July and have been extremely helpful in helping us maintain the area, specifically removing an enormous amount of Himalayan balsam. We haven't just used them for unpaid child labour but have encouraged them to share our volunteers' enthusiasm and knowledge of the environment and the plants and creatures that share it with us. They seem to have had a great time and we have much enjoyed having them. We are hoping the enthusiasm, respect and commitment of the children has filtered back to their schools and guardians and this will be the start of much closer associations between us.

The butterfly survey mentioned in the June issue has been continuing throughout the summer. The unsettled weather earlier in the summer didn't help the number of sightings, but as the volunteer who's carrying out the survey commented, negative results are as important as positive ones. However she did spot several green veined whites to add to her species list.

The Conservation Area continues to be open the first week end of every month, weather permitting. A reminder that although dogs are welcome, we ask they are kept on a lead. The flora and fauna in this area is not adapted to disturbance.

Don't forget the bat and moth night planned for 7th September, weather permitting. Notices will be displayed giving more information, and please refer to our Facebook page.

Our next Volunteer date is September 5th. Paul Fallon (paulfallon6@gmail.com) will be delighted to give you more details.