

DONINGTON & ALBRIGHTON LOCAL NATURE RESERVE

Thank goodness the mud-fest that was the Meadow is now a distant memory. We will never resolve the problem completely due to the topography of the area but the additional drainage we put in will definitely help.

The muddy conditions did adversely affect our plans for April as we were unable to take any vehicles onto the Meadow in order to sort out the bank erosion mentioned last time. But we did still manage to pretty well finish our dry hedge line, though we will continue adding to it as the brash rots down providing a better and better habitat for vertebrates and invertebrates alike.

We have changed the ground maintenance company we use to a smaller more local company already used by some of the other local nature reserves. This company takes a more sympathetic approach to grass cutting which should result in an increase in flora whilst keeping paths and areas around seating clear.

The bees in the Conservation area have been mentioned before. Now is their time to get really busy and some help with their husbandry would be greatly appreciated. Bee keeping is becoming increasingly popular and this would be a great opportunity for anyone who is interested in becoming an apiarist to learn from a master. Please contact Paul Fallon (paul@ifallon.com) as usual for details.

The southern boundary of the Conservation area has never been physically marked but unfortunately, due to encroachment into the area from seven houses bordering it it has become necessary to do so. The barrier will be as sympathetic to the area as possible.

If you enjoyed the bluebells in the conservation area at the end of April you'll be pleased to hear the area will be open 5/6th May and thereafter the first Saturday of every month until October, weather conditions permitting. It really is a wonderful area, and although "hidden gem" may be a little over enthusiastic a way to describe it, we are working on it.

And finally, the ducks! Thank you to everyone who is trying to heed the advice on the posters. It won't be easy to wean them off their preferred junk food but bread really isn't good for them or the general health of the Pool. If we could just get more ducklings to adulthood as a result of the better environment that would be wonderful.

May 10th is our volunteer day for this month, please come and see us for a chat if you can. Otherwise contact Paul Fallon (paul@ifallon.com) if you have access to email