

Friends of Willaston Meadow

Update from the Secretary- David Nind

The current Covid-19 pandemic has led the committee to cancel its meetings, including the AGM in May, and volunteer activities; nevertheless Big Meadow still remains a tranquil area for a short stroll and quiet relaxation, whilst adhering to Government advice of course. This will also be the first year that we shall not be producing a hard-copy Newsletter, nor a subscription form for those Friends who pay annually. We very much hope that those who pay by standing order will continue to do so for the time being. A brief secretary's report follows.

2019 was a very sad year for the Friends Group following the deaths of Hilary Morris and Roger James.

Hilary had been our Chair since the inception of FOWM in 2004. Her science background, interest in local and natural history, and strong personality made her the ideal individual for the job. We were pleased that members of her family and Friends met in March this year to plant an apple tree her memory.

Roger had been Treasurer for over 9 years and brought to the committee his extensive business experience and warm personality. His contributions at AGMs and ordinary committee meetings were always astute and delivered with great humour.

We are very fortunate that Sarah Shannon is now our new Chair and has already met with our Greenspace lead from CW&C, to discuss the continued management of the meadow in association with the Friends Group. She already has plans for a future grant application to enable us to improve the area around Jacksons Pond.

Willaston Primary School pupils, up to the time of the present crisis, continued their Forest School education led by their excellent teacher, John Ellinson.

We have welcomed several new volunteers recently and look forward to meeting with them in the future when our activities eventually resume.