



FRIENDS OF WINDERMERE FIELDS

Annual Report from the Chair – May 2020

Well, we are another year on and what an unusual year it has been, to say the least. We are in a state of social distancing and our usual activities have been severely curtailed in recent months. Before the restrictions came into force in March 2020, we had made a good start on our management plan, as yet to be fully drafted and agreed upon. Since the last AGM, at which a range of logos for friends of Windermere Field were displayed and one subsequently chosen (see above):

- 1.** Our noticeboard has been installed, and at the time of writing, is still standing and has not been subjected to graffiti.
- 2.** Fruit trees provided by Izzy and Theresa have been planted and seem to be flourishing. This is the start of what will become an orchard. Other Friends have also offered to provide fruit trees too. Thanks to all who assisted in the planting and to the residents of Ashleigh Grove who have been keeping them watered. Sue has also had contact with EcoSikh who are a Sikh group providing trees to be planted across the country.
- 3.** Over 20 hazel saplings provided by Jan Tomlinson, Park Ranger, have been planted at the far end of the field behind the goal posts. These too, in the main, are doing well. A large amount of undergrowth near the car park and foliage to the right of the entrance has been cleared. Eventually, once further clearance and pruning have taken place, this will be planted with woodland flowers.

4. There was a walk on 8th September 2019 led by Tony Sames , with the aim of establishing an overview of the flora on the field. There were 25 people taking part in a very interesting walk around the field and Jack has been able to compile a report on the walk, listing flora observed and comments from Tony regarding a management plan.

5. Thanks to many people who have been litter picking on the field on both a formal and informal basis. The car park seems to be the main focus for litter. The committee have discussed whether it would be worth approaching the council to replace the red bin with a larger black bin, but it was felt that this request would be unsuccessful. However we have purchased a litter picker, which is stored at 9, Windermere Road.

6. Jack Wilson arranged a meeting with an assistant Head of Moseley School, with the view to involve their students in the care of Moseley Bog, after an initial contact through Rob Kewley. I was there to make the case for their involvement in Windermere Field! Unfortunately this happened only a short time before “lockdown” and so there has been no further progress on this front.

7. Thanks again to members of the committee who have given up their time to attend meetings regularly. Since the restrictions have come into operation we have not held a meeting, although a Zoom virtual meeting has been suggested.

8. Thanks to Rob Kewley who has taken over the task of circulating emails to the wider membership using Mailchimp. This has proved problematic as it requires a code which is sent to Izzy Knowles, who set it up originally. I am somewhat concerned that the membership are not being informed about what is going on and may in fact think that the group has disbanded. Suggestions to remedy this are welcome.

9. We are continuing to monitor the border between the Pickwick Club and Windermere Field. During the construction of a building on their site, two trees on the field were felled and have yet to be replaced. Concern was also expressed about the hedge bordering the Pickwick Club and Windermere Road , opposite the maisonettes, however it was felt that this was beyond the remit of the Friends of Windermere Field.

10. At the end of April Jack made observations of the field as part of the City nature Challenge. These can be seen on the iNaturalist app.

Paul Hunt - Chair, Friends of Windermere Fields