

Dear Members, Spring is here! Wildlife is burgeoning in the park! Read about how FOCVP is working to look after it, increase bio-diversity, and how to get involved if you'd like to.

Wetland Wildlife Area



Congratulations to the Wetland Wildlife Group who secured a grant of £500 from the Ward Forum. This will be put towards a scoping exercise to find out how best to develop the area; the exercise, includes conducting an **Amphibian Survey** of the ponds and wetland area by torchlight and will be led by Miranda Covan, a local ecologist and member of the group. Starting in April, the survey will be conducted every 2 weeks for 6 weeks.

If you would like to be involved, please email: rachel@friendsofcentrevalepark.org.uk

Volunteers Needed

Picnic in The Park

The Picnic in the Park planning group has been working hard to organise this popular annual event which falls on Fathers' Day, **Sun 16 June**. Volunteers are needed. Would you be interested in getting involved on the day? If so please email Bob (see below)

A Pop Up and Grand Litter Pick in the Park

To be held on **Sun 19 May** Stout shoes are advisable. Come and join us for both or either! It's always good to chat and find out what members think, and any ideas or concerns they may have.

If you would like to get involved in either of these events, please contact Stillbob@googlemail.com

Park Work Volunteering

Volunteers have been busy clearing the woodland paths of leaf mould – quite a strenuous task, especially on the steep cobbled stretches.



FOCVP received a generous donation from someone who saw members clearing the cobbled path. Many thanks from all of us. Much appreciated.

We have also continued trying to bring the ponds back to life, removing more leaf mould from the Japanese bridge pond and planting dwarf water lilies in the Remembrance Garden. We were surprised to find lots of palmate newts in there.

Now that Spring is here, we will be giving our fruit and flower beds some attention, in the hope of keeping the weeds at bay. On **Thurs 18 April** we will be joined by volunteers from Ridge Consulting, one of the contractors for the Active Todmorden project. Join us if you can! To find out more, please email

rachel@friendsofcentrevalepark.org.uk

Wildlife Spotted in the Park



Wood mouse



Moorhen

Please let us know if you see any wildlife in the park so we can add the sighting to our records, and share with others.

Woodland Management



You may have noticed trees being felled within the woodland. This is essential safety work for trees that have become unstable due to their age and disease.

There is more yet to be done. A number of mature Ash trees will be taken down, due to a serious disease which is affecting Ash trees.

It was accidentally introduced to the country about 12 years ago, spread by airborne spores. There is nothing that can be done to prevent it and Local Authorities are having to deal with horrendous tree losses. Fortunately, the disease only affects Ash.

Our Friends Group have been kept informed by the Council and has received assurances from them that replacement trees will be planted.

The loss of mature trees is always a shame but it does give a great opportunity for planting native trees such as Oak, to replace the Beech which is not a naturally occurring tree in our valley.

As a result, you will see much improvement to the ground flora and greater opportunities for a more vibrant woodland.

The Friends will be helping by encouraging native plants such as Wood Anemone, Stitchwort and Bluebells.

Woodland management also continues each year, as it has over the last 14 years, making opportunities for increased birdsong and nesting birds.

Take a walk through and enjoy the songbirds this Spring!

Philip Marshall

(Philip has spent many years working in the woodland, and has over the years shared his valuable knowledge. Many thanks is due for his extremely valuable work in the management of the woodland.)

Bird Walk on Sunday 5 May

Led by Bob Still and Steve Blacksmith

Meet at the Upper Sports Centre Carpark, Ewood Lane

Bring your binoculars. No dogs please

See flier & reserve a place: stillbob@gmail.com



Town Deal Park Improvements Update



Great news! The Children's Cycle Way will be refurbished during April and May of this year. The cost will come out of a £3m pot bid for by Active Todmorden, and it is also proposed to spend it on creating a two-way cycle way separate to the road from the town/market along Burnley Road (removing Patmos parking spaces), into the park and either along in front of the bandstand or along/beside the curved path past the Fielden Statue. Consultation is ongoing.

MUGA: The location of the MUGA is in discussion – unsure whether there is space near the bowling greens.

Bandstand: is going ahead as planned, though the cost will mean no canopy will be included.

Tennis Courts: the refurbishment has stalled due to drainage issues.

Bowling Pavilion: unfortunately, the Environment Agency says no extension of the building's footprint is possible so they are looking at making it two storey.

The Park Town Deal Projects now have a dedicated website at <https://todtccentrevalleparkeprojects.org.uk/>

Read in detail about project updates as they occur.

Proposal for a Temporary School on the Meadow

As you are probably aware, FOCPV is extremely concerned about this proposal to site the temporary school for Castle Hill Primary on the park Meadow, a wildlife area. FOCPV wants the best for the children of Castle Hill and Todmorden as a whole, but think not enough has been done to scope alternative sites. The group has been active in expressing its concerns about the negative impact on wildlife, and the implications of siting it on the meadow. These include the loss of our precious public park space, which although temporary, may in reality be for a number of years. FOCPV has been in communication with relevant organisations, in particular Fields In Trust.

Many thanks to members for your messages and emails expressing your concern.

At the present time Fields in Trust is making a decision about whether they will grant permission for a temporary school to be placed on the meadow. The Trust has assured FOCPV that it is asking for more detailed information about other possible sites. We wait to hear their decision. A particular concern is there has not as yet been an ecology report made available.

The proposal will go to the Calderdale Planning Committee, where it will be scrutinised. At the time of writing the planning application has not yet been submitted. There will be an opportunity to comment on the submitted application on the following website once it has been submitted. Web address below.

<https://new.calderdale.gov.uk/planning-and-building-control-/search-and-comment-planning-applications>

Please let us know if you find this Newsletter useful. Are there things you would like to see in it? Your feedback would be valued. Many thanks.

SAVE THE DATES....!!!!

Park Work Volunteering 10.30am - Thurs 18 Apr - 10-12.30 - with volunteers from Ridge Consulting, Sun 28 Apr, Thurs 9 May, Thurs 6 June, Thurs 27 Jun

Sun 5 May - Bird walk

Sun 19 May - Pop-up and Grand Litter Pick in the Park (with other community groups)

Sun 16 Jun - Picnic in the Park

Here are our contacts. For more information visit our website - www.friendsofcentrevalepark.org.uk

Karen, Chair - karen.andrews495@gmail.com

Bob Still - Secretary stillbob@googlemail.com

Rachel, Park Work Volunteer Co-ordinator rachel@friendsofcentrevalepark.org.uk

Leye Oladapo, Membership Secretary leyeoladapo@googlemail.com

Very best wishes and hope to see you all soon..... Friends Committee