

I.M.M.C. Chairman's report for November 2010 to November 2011

My thanks to everyone on the committee for their hard work over the last twelve months and also a special thank you to the other volunteers who provide help when it is needed.

November 2010:

Lantern Parade 2011 – Sponsored by St.Martins Parish Council, Local Joint Committee and IMMC.

Lovely Dry Clear night perfect for the Parade – entertainer The Silverman arrived late and adlibbed the start of his performance while setting up. Everyone seemed to have a good time. We did have a few problems but every year we learn something that we can improve on. On the plus side this year we had £57 put into the collection bucket.

We went to Mad Jacks for our December meeting/meal.

Following the transfer of Ifton Meadows to Shropshire Council we have had an ongoing query about our position and insurance at the Meadows for events/workdays. This month (Nov.2011) we have finally received confirmation that we are covered. You should all have received a copy of the email received from Gareth Edgar explaining this.

Another problem which arose was the ownership of the stretch of land on the left of the site (from the Colliery/main entrance). We have highlighted this for many years both with Oswestry Borough Council and Shropshire Council. In July we received a letter from Nigel Billingham stating that the land did belong to S.Council but by September this had changed and S.Council and Mrs. Lewis are in discussions. Hopefully this will soon be cleared up and the land will be included in the Nature Reserve.

Large logs have been placed for seating at the Meadows on two occasions over the last few months our thanks to the volunteers who helped to place them.

We again had a marquee at the Summer Fayre. There was not so much interest this year but we did have a two fund raisers, Roll a Ten Pence and raffle. Children's workshop was very poor.

On the 16th June members acted as guides for a walk around the Meadows for Shropshire County WI

Thanks are again extended to all who helped on this evening.

Green Gyms have been held monthly and work carried out clearing paths, pulling ragwort etc.

2011 Lantern Parade: Lantern Workshops: Sponsored by St Martin's Parish Council, Shropshire Council and IMMC

Four sessions were held in Ifton Heath School making 72 lanterns. Thanks to the many volunteers who came to help us. Volunteers at the school were Bryan & Ann Williams, Colin Chapman, Alex Olah, Elizabeth James, Rita, Neil Graham, Sue Schofield, Cath Purnell and Alison Kynaston Jones.

At the two workshops in the Centre we made 21 on Saturday and 41 on Wednesday. Volunteers were Ann & Bryan Williams, Colin Chapman, Alex Olah, Elizabeth James, Jessica, Sue Schofield, Liz and Stuart.

Saturday 29th October was the worst day of the week as far as the weather goes and although dry early on for erection of marquee, high winds and heavy showers dogged us for the afternoon and evening. Over 100 lanterns were handed out to the children along with several spares. Large number of people joined the procession which was the largest we have ever had. Unfortunately due to high winds the entertainer could not perform on the top, so performed at the bottom after leading the procession to the top and back. Heavy rain on the way down meant that many families went straight home and did not stay for the entertainment. Entertainer performed for the remaining people and I think on the whole the evening was a success. Hot refreshments were provided by Friends of Ifton Heath School and Hot drinks by Friends of Ifton Meadows.

This is the 6th Lantern parade and the first time that we have had to leave the marquees overnight.

Sunday brought sunshine and light winds which helped with the drying and taking down of the marquees. Volunteers who turned up to help put up or take down the marquees were Bryan and Ann Williams, Colin Chapman, Neil Graham, Elizabeth James, Dave Hayes, Sue Schofield, Duncan, Alex Olah, Rob and Vi Taylor.

I would like to thank First Aider Vi Taylor who donated her time and Sheila Baines from Pentre Nurseries for the donation of canes for the procession.

Over the last few months we have had four new volunteers, Rita and Duncan and Liz and Stuart.

Without the volunteers work and the grant from St.Martins Parish Council this event would not have taken place so I thank the council and you all for all the hard work you have put in.

Ann Williams

Chairman IMMC/Friends of Ifton Meadows