

## Ifton Meadows Management Committee

### Chairman's Report October 2009 to September 2010

I would first like to thank the committee and other volunteers for the support they have given me over the last twelve months, at meetings, Green Gyms and events.

2009 Lantern Parade went off well and for once the weather was kind to us. The fire was a big hit and was a good focal point for the event. Having the marquees at The Meadows was ideal, enabling us to hold onto the people who attended with offers of food and drinks for sale.

The Local Joint Committee gave us a grant for a new Notice/Interpretation board which was erected by Countryside Service in June 2010 at the Railway entrance.

October 2009 saw a party of visitors from Llanymynech Heritage Group arrive at the Meadows for a conducted tour by Maggie, Neil and myself. Hopefully the information provided by us on how we help to maintain the Meadows and run events will have been of use to them.

Joe Penfold paid for a number of improvements to the site i.e. two kissing gates (one wheelchair friendly), new railings and boardwalk in the Dingle and drainage. This was paid for with money to improve access for those with mobility problems.

Harvey oversaw this work along with scrub removal on the Skylark's breeding area.

Since Harvey took over from Oswestry Borough Council he has also carried out maintenance work on the site over the year and attended two meetings.

Disputed Land at Ifton Meadows is still on going. Nigel Billington walked the site with Neil and has confirmed that the land belongs to Shropshire County Council. Following this I received a letter stating that he was looking into this. To date I have not heard any more. I have sent a second letter asking for information following our last meeting, no reply to date.

Alex designed an explanatory poster about the Mosaic. This has proved popular. Frost damage to the mosaic needs to be considered and then maybe we may need to think of something more permanent on the same lines.

Elizabeth on our behalf erected a Christmas tree in the Church, which allowed our group to join in with the other groups in the village for the 'decorated tree with the theme of a carol'. The church looked very nice for the services over the Advent period.

December we all enjoyed a meal at 'The Boot' at Whittington instead of the December meeting.

Grant from Breathing Places, Phase 4' allowed us to purchase tools, office equipment, surveying equipment- bat detectors, butterfly nets etc., and training days which we have now completed.

Bat evening with Peta Marshall on 13<sup>th</sup> March gave us information on bats and their habits. Unfortunately we saw no bats that evening (too cold) but a follow up walk when Peta joined us on 24<sup>th</sup>

August proved more productive and we identified 5 different species and a possible roost of 'noctule bats' behind the scrap yard. Still awaiting a full list.

Butterflies, Bugs, Bees and Botany were also on our list. Over 150 species of plants/trees identified on 11<sup>th</sup> July along with 8 types of shield bugs, the largest number found on one site by the expert attending. The only disappointing part of the training was that the 'Bee Man' did not turn up for his day and then came on the same day as the Botany man which was inconvenient for us. You could not be everywhere at once. Still awaiting complete lists.

Rhos Choir concert 22<sup>nd</sup> May – we had to change the venue at the last moment due to the 'Institute double booking. Rev Stuart Jermy kindly allowed us to hold the concert in the Church and we used the Chapter House for the refreshments. A very hot evening, lovely concert but not enough support from the village.

Neil and I went into Ifton Heath School in the Spring during their 'history week' and with the help of artefacts kindly loaned by 'The Greyhound' we gave a talk on 'Mining and Ifton Colliery in particular' to the whole school, in three sessions. The children and staff seemed to find this of interest and we have had good comments following these sessions.

Two problems arose during the last year firstly a problem with Lloyds bank over change of address of Treasurer from Maggie to Claire. After eight months we think we may have sorted this – awaiting the first correspondence to arrive at Claire's before we are sure. Second problem was Shropshire C. Council asking us to insure ourselves when working or holding events at the Meadows. It was agreed that we would be covered for this year but we have not heard if we will be covered for the future. The overall feeling of the committee was that we did not think we should pay for the privilege of volunteering.

Finishing on a nice note we had our first talk on Barn Owls in September with 14 people attending not enough to cover the speaker but a good start and we also received a donation of £20 from the Craft Group to help us continue our work. We have also received grant from St.Martins Parish Council for £1000 towards our Lantern Parade this year

Thank you all again for your support.

**Ann Williams**

**Chairman October, 2010**