

# Porter Valley News



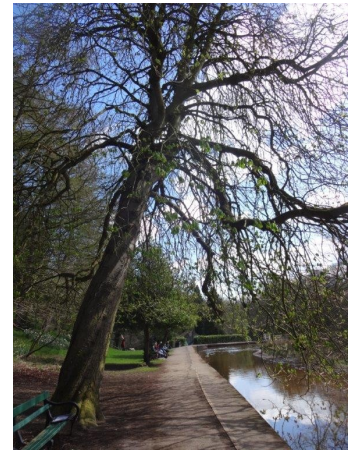
The newsletter of Friends of the Porter Valley - Registered Charity No. 1069865

Issue 91

October 2018

## Sheffield's Trees and Woodlands

A talk by Dave Aspinall  
Wednesday 7th November  
7:30 - 9:30pm  
Bents Green Methodist Church  
Ringinglow Road



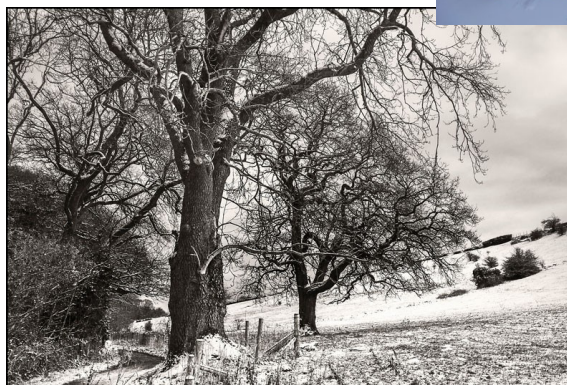
Before the talk we will have our AGM and Open Meeting.  
After the talk, tea and biscuits, and a chance to chat with the committee  
and other members.

### Inside this issue:

Conservation Volunteers	2
Forge Dam News	2
2019 Calendars	2
Bingham Park	3
Christmas Fair at Forge Dam	3
Coppicing Course	3
Shepherd Wheel	4
Community Funds grants programme	4
Contact details	4
Membership details	4
Committee members	4
Activities	4

## Christmas is Coming!

Cards are in two designs. Thank you Martin Decent and Flora Owen for organising the production, and a big cheer for photographers Martin Field and Matthew Kilner for the lovely snowy photos around Forge Dam. Packs of five are now being sold at £3 each (no price



Snowy junction above Forge Dam (change) and you pay only £5 for every ten. They will be on sale at the AGM, the Forge Dam Christmas Fair, on the website, in the cafes and some shops as usual. Or contact Ann le Sage at: [ann@lesage.org.uk](mailto:ann@lesage.org.uk)

Bridle path above Forge Dam

So far this year, duck food sales at the two cafes in the valley have raised £1,242.39 for the Forge Dam restoration fund!!! Lucky ducks!

Ros Hancock

## Conservation Volunteers Forge Ahead



Laural hedge and wall restoration

Now that the planning application for the restoration of Forge Dam has been submitted to the council our volunteers are beginning to concentrate on the area around Forge Dam. They cannot carry out the major works required but can make many significant contributions. The last September work

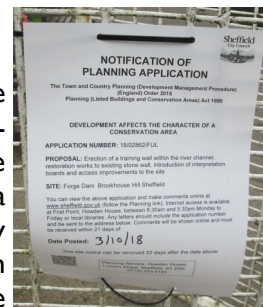
morning saw hedge cutting opposite the café and clearance work behind the garages. We are now contemplating rebuilding the wall below the roadway to the café and about wildlife habitats and how to improve them. Further work will also be carried out around the playground.

In addition we have been working at Wiremill Dam. The path around the dam has been resurfaced. Volunteers are in the process of cutting back excessive tree growth, shrubs and self sets next to the access steps from the car park and next to the dam. Letting in the light encourages ground cover and makes the environment more attractive. We are beginning a programme of clearance and tidying up near the river in the dam's vicinity.

Early in September our specialist volunteers carried out further weed clearance in Shepherd Wheel Dam to avoid possible clogging of the water wheel. At the same time another group went upstream, across Hangingwater Road, and tackled the Leather Wheel goit which is clogged with overhanging trees and dead wood. Incidentally, since we installed the information posts early in the summer it is easy to tell the mills apart. During September we were joined on work mornings by volunteer groups from two sections of the Civil Service. We have also welcomed volunteers from Amey. These are useful and youthful additions to our rather aging work force and we are grateful to them for their efforts.

Our future plans depend on the progress of the Forge Dam planning application. We will continue to carry out tasks throughout the valley. Inevitably our focus will be on Forge Dam. Please join us on work mornings if you can. If anyone has expertise on dry stone walling and can spare an hour or two we would welcome some training on how best to tackle this task. There are a lot of walls which need repairing in the valley! Dates and meeting locations are on the FoPV website.

Dave Clegg



Clearance behind garages

## Forge Dam News

The planning application has now been submitted as we were advised by the planners that they did not now require an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA). It is now hoped that the process is a smooth one so that we can then proceed to the preparation of applications to appropriate donor organisations for the outstanding monies needed. To date we have raised £216,000 towards the cost of the scheme.

David Young



## 2019 Calendars

The 2019 Calendars are bright and beautiful with lots of shots taken of wildlife in the valley. Thank you all our photographers and keep sending them in for the build up to next year's calendar! No price change again: £7 each. They make attractive (and useful) stocking fillers. Like the cards, they will be selling at the AGM, Christmas Fair, cafes, on the website etc. Our thanks to Ros Hancock for again producing the calendar and holding the sales stock: if you want to buy, contact [rosinsheffield@gmail.com](mailto:rosinsheffield@gmail.com)

## Bingham Park

The bowling green (the green in use) and pavilion have been enclosed with a new green fence, paths continue to connect the Bingham Park areas. The new 'Pay to Play' tennis courts are being used and appreciated. One dad with his son said 'The courts are really good: my son (age 11) booked the court on his phone, I paid the money, yes we will return'.

The grass is growing after a very dry summer over the landscaped area above the tennis courts. The paths have been resurfaced from the Bingham Park Road entrance to the tennis courts. A park bench has been installed above the bowling green with views over Ranmoor. The redundant telephone pole has been removed and the area is now looking a lot more attractive.

A single large English Oak will be planted in Bingham Park as a WWI memorial, a Yorkshire Stone Plaque will be placed next to the tree. The tree will be planted at an agreed location near the tennis courts in October/November.

*Glyn Mansell*

---

## Christmas Fair at Forge Dam

We didn't run an Autumn Fair this September so it is now all go for the annual Forge Dam Christmas Fair on Saturday 15 December 2018. The council events office has given the go-ahead already. Cards and calendars have arrived; our creative teams lead by Caroline Egglestone and Ann Greenwood are knitting already; bakers are about to be marshalled by Ann Clegg; door garland rings left over from 2017 have been sorted out by John Gittins and the duds discarded. The usual makers are sharpening the secateurs and viewing available greenery! The Forge Dam Cafe is all prepared and David and Anita Vere are lovingly preparing the vintage musical organ. All we need now is good weather on the day and lots of happy visitors. I will be canvassing for wreath and table top decoration helpers, bakers and knitters very soon! And of course anyone with time to spare to assist would be very welcome to join the teams running the Fair: look out for website and message board updates; and those on the usual lists watch out for the incoming email!

*Ann le Sage*

---

## Coppicing Course

An email from FoPV announcing a free coppicing course at Ecclesall Woods looked too good to miss so I promptly booked myself on the course. It was fascinating! There were only three participants. Under Dave's expert and patient tuition, ably assisted by volunteer Peter, we learnt about the ancient craft of coppicing trees including hazel, ash, oak, and sweet chestnut. We were introduced to the history and principles of "coppicing with standards" which gives a sustainable timber crop for construction and furniture making and the uses for different species of trees was explained. After the efficient and safe use of different tools was demonstrated, we practiced coppicing hazel and were shown other aspects of woodland management and woodcraft. Everyone could have a go: after the gales and downpours the previous week the day turned out fine which made it pleasant for working there on a sunny autumn day.

I doubt if I have spent a more productive Sunday for a long time. I consider myself very lucky to have had the opportunity to take part. Perhaps it was a shame it wasn't better supported but we all enjoyed the experience. It is possible FoPV will benefit in the long term! I can certainly recommend it and would encourage anyone to take a look at the website <http://www.ecclesallwoodswoodcraftcourses.co.uk/> which lists the variety of courses run at the JG Graves Woodland Discovery Centre at Ecclesall Woods.



*Stephen Ward*

Secretary:

Glynis Jones  
25 Endcliffe Rise Road  
S11 8RUTel 2668332  
secretary@fopv.org.uk**Annual Membership:****Single: £10****Family: £15****Concession: £5**Membership forms  
available from  
David Young  
(tel. 2307909)  
or on our website

## Shepherd Wheel

The ebb and flow of life at the Wheel continues. The performances of "Flossie the Phantom Ferret" and the ReGather festival in July were popular with audiences young and old alike. The Hangingwater Allotment group had a successful sale early September, despite the hot weather. September's last weekend saw a large influx of visitors, as new students were taken on a familiarisation walk. Where better than the beautiful Porter Valley? FoPV's conservation work has been well worth while: I saw a heron in the pond, intent on fishing and undisturbed by my passing by.

Maggie Marsh

## Co-op Community Funds grant programme

For the next six months all the national plastic bag scheme savings, and 1% of member purchases, will be split between three local charities selected by local stores: the Co-op on Ecclesall Road is now generating funds for FoPV to renovate Endcliffe Park's shabby entrance off Hunter's Bar; and the Co-op at Fulwood is generating funds for Forge Dam playground improvements. If you are a Co-op member be sure to go on their website to register the new card and select FoPV schemes as destinations for your 1% charity share. Wonderful support: apparently there is already over £920 raised for Endcliffe Park!

Ann le Sage

## Activities for October to February

Any changes in the following details due to inclement weather will be available on the web-site, Radio Sheffield or through the committee.

When and Where	What and Who
Sunday 21 <sup>st</sup> October, 1-4pm Bingham bowling pavilion & tennis courts	Bingham Park Community Day
Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> October, 10am-2pm Forge Dam	Conservation work morning. Contact Dave Clegg <a href="mailto:orielclegg@aol.com">orielclegg@aol.com</a> for details.
Saturday 3 <sup>rd</sup> November, 10am Junction of Ecclesall Rd & Bannerdale Rd	'Reading the Landscape' A walk led by Peter Kennet
Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup> November, 7.30pm Bents Green Methodist Chapel	'Sheffield's Trees and Woodlands' AGM, open meeting and talk by Dave Aspinall
Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup> November, 10am-2pm Common Lane Open Space	Conservation work morning. Contact Dave Clegg <a href="mailto:orielclegg@aol.com">orielclegg@aol.com</a> for details.
Tuesday 27 <sup>th</sup> November, 10am-2pm Forge Dam	Conservation work morning. Contact Dave Clegg <a href="mailto:orielclegg@aol.com">orielclegg@aol.com</a> for details.
Saturday 1 <sup>st</sup> December, 10.30am-12noon Forge Dam Cafe	'A look at winter wildlife' A family walk led by Catherine Downes
Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> December, 10am-2pm Forge Dam	Conservation work morning. Contact Dave Clegg <a href="mailto:orielclegg@aol.com">orielclegg@aol.com</a> for details.
Saturday 15 <sup>th</sup> December, 10am-4pm Forge Dam	Christmas Fair Wreath-making, vintage organ music and refreshments
Saturday 1st January (TBC)	A winter walk.
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> January, 10am-2pm	Conservation work morning. Contact Dave Clegg <a href="mailto:orielclegg@aol.com">orielclegg@aol.com</a> for details.
Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup> January, 10am-2pm	Conservation work morning. Contact Dave Clegg <a href="mailto:orielclegg@aol.com">orielclegg@aol.com</a> for details.
Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> February, 7.30pm Bents Green Methodist Chapel	Open meeting and talk.

The Committee:

Ann le Sage  
Chair  
David Young  
Treasurer  
Glynis Jones  
Secretary / newsletter  
Dave Clegg  
Conservation work days  
Les Greenwood  
Mike Halliwell  
Website / membership  
Glyn Mansell  
Bingham Park  
Maggie Marsh  
Shepherd Wheel open days  
Chris Nicholson  
Walks  
Flora Owen  
Talks  
Keith Smith