

Porter Valley News

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



Issue 111



October 2023

How can we deliver Sheffield Nature Recovery?

A talk by Liz Ballard
Wednesday 1st November
7:30 - 9:30pm
Bents Green Methodist Church
Ringinglow Road



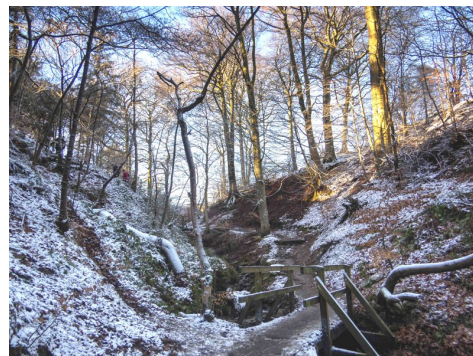
Before the talk we will have our AGM and Open Meeting.
After the talk, tea and biscuits, and a chance to chat with the committee
and other members.

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Calendar and cards

FoPV cards and calendars are once more on sale at Le Crunch at Bents Green, Endcliffe and Forge Dam cafés, and on the webshop. This year's cards feature a snowy scene of the Upper Porter Clough, photographed by Rod Egglestone, and a painting of Wood Cliffe, by renowned local artist, Isabel Blincow.



We are grateful to both for their contribution. Prices are the same as last year, £4 for a pack of 5 or £6 for a pack of 10. Cards and calendars will also be on sale at the AGM on November 1st. Hurry while stocks last!

The much loved Christmas stockings, created by FoPV knitters, will be on sale after Bonfire Night, and once again at last year's prices.

Caroline Egglestone

Forge Dam: We are pleased to announce that the Council has now appointed an expert civil engineering consultant to advise on an appropriate solution to the leakage through the dam wall. We understand that there will be an emptying of the silt trap later in the autumn, and that the silt will be transported to Beighton Tip, in accordance with permissions already granted previously.

David Young

FoPV Calendars

The FoPV 2024 calendar is now available for purchase at £10, same as last year, on the webshop and elsewhere. This means two things – firstly Christmas is approaching



Porter Falls

Autumn splendour

St. Amigo memorial

Winter sky and mist

Facebook: Friends of Porter Valley

Email: secretary@fopv.org.uk

Website: www.fopv.org.uk



(already), and secondly, we need to begin the 2025 calendar! We would like everybody to send in photos from around the Porter Valley, showing its fun, beauty and peace. Pictures of park spaces, trees, flowers, animals, events, anything to celebrate this glorious place we enjoy. Please send your pictures to: pictures@fopv.org.uk



Rob Peck

Christmas and Volunteering Opportunities

Christmas Events over November and December have now been planned. In addition to calendars and cards already available, our webshop will take orders for wreaths and wreath kits from Nov 10th, enabling members and friends to buy a wreath for £15 or, for £6, a kit to make a wreath at home. Why not join in the preparatory work! We need helpers selling Christmas creations, wreath making, running indoor evening events, and foraging for evergreens to supply the wreath makers.

We're looking for help on a number of dates and in various locations, mostly indoors (except the foraging, obviously!)

Dates still available

We'd love to hear from you if you can help at any of the following sessions:

November 9th Work morning - willow hoop making

November 18th onwards. Foraging for evergreen foliage; leylandii, pine, cedar, ivy flowers, holly, heather, rosemary etc.

November 28th Work morning - usual conservation work plus hoop making, wreath creating and taking orders

December 5th 10 am to 2 pm at Fulwood Old Chapel wreath creating

December 6th 6-8pm Evening event at Forge Dam café. For families to make their own wreaths, with FoPV volunteers.

December 14th Work morning with added wreath making

December 12th 6-8 pm Evening event at Fulwood Old Chapel for families to make their own wreaths with FoPV volunteers

December 16th 4 pm Forge Dam café area. Christchurch Fulwood providing Christmas music.

We will have a pop-up table selling the last wreaths and other remaining Christmas goods.

If you can help with any of the above (and previous experience not needed), contact Ann le Sage, by phone or email. nnpisan@gmail.com 07790250087



Christmas Event at Fulwood Old Chapel

We are delighted that the Chapel on Whiteley Lane are allowing FoPV to hold a Christmas Sales Event on Saturday Dec 2nd between 10.30 and 3.30. In addition to further opportunities to acquire our cards and calendars, and to collect pre-ordered wreaths or wreath kits, we will offer mulled wine (if you buy a mince pie!) and other hot drinks, home-made bakes, good quality second-hand books and Christmas crafts, including the chance to put together your own Christmas garland or swag. Hope you can join us.

Hilary White



Young geologists help out in the Valley

Loyal readers will recall that the last newsletter showed groups of young Brownies and Beaver Scouts helping out in the Valley during the summer, gardening, litterpicking and generally contributing to the environment in a practical way, but it's not just the youngest students who help. A small group from Sheffield High School, geology students and their teachers, spent a morning at the end of the summer term, clearing access to two sites of geological interest in the Valley.

Near Carr Bridge, a Marine Band was uncovered, in the base of a steep river cliff beside Clough Lane. After a patient search, crushed goniatite fossils were found in a thin band of barren shales and mudstones while, just downstream from the bridge at Forge dam, access to a monocline in sandstone was enhanced by clearing brambles to clean the face. On a hot day, the students enjoyed ice creams from Forge Dam café after all their hard work!

Peter Kennett



Help FoPV fundraise!

We're using a great website called [easyfundraising](http://easyfundraising.org.uk) to help raise money for Friends of the Porter Valley. Easyfundraising is the UK's biggest charity shopping site, and will turn your everyday online shopping into FREE donations for us. All you need to do is sign up and shop via the [easyfundraising](http://easyfundraising.org.uk) website or App when you're shopping with over 7,500 brands including eBay, Tesco, Marks & Spencer, Just Eat and more! Your online shopping won't cost you any extra and FoPV will be really grateful for your donations. www.easyfundraising.org.uk

Mike Halliwell

Did you see them?



We've never been great Halloween fans at our house. Well, we keep a few sweets for neighbouring youngsters who come trick or treating (now our own grandchildren have outgrown the practice), but otherwise the long aisles of orange and black tat in shops and supermarkets tends to trigger our inner curmudgeon. Bah, humbug, as Scrooge would say, albeit not about Halloween.



But this time last year we were stopped in our tracks by a carved pumpkin which appeared on the wall opposite the turning to the Children's Playground at Forge Dam. There was no indication who had produced this cheeky looking creation, the stem of the pumpkin adding to the overall expression of mischief. And then, a few days later, two more appeared, even more intricately carved but again with no accreditation for the artist/craftperson responsible.

To him or her (or them) congratulations on your brilliant work and thanks for making some half term walks in the Valley especially memorable.

Les and Ann Greenwood

Secretary:

Glynis Jones
25 Endcliffe Rise Road
S11 8RUTel 2668332
secretary@fopv.org.uk**Annual Membership:****Single: £10**
Family: £15
Concession: £5For membership forms
and online application
visit our website.

News from our local parks

Two generous donations - one from Henderson's Relish, a second from a private donor, have paid for the refurbishment of the well-used climbing frame at Forge Dam Playground. The contractor Lightmain undertook the work in the last week of September. Repair of the climbing net is pending. This will give the equipment a longer life while donations build up to enable a more extensive upgrade. Longer term plans include extra swings, a better surface and room for additional accessible equipment such as a roundabout. All funds raised at Christmas will contribute to this project.

Meanwhile, at Bingham Park, there is to be a small adventure trail for 2-8 year olds, where the old Pitch and Putt course used to be. The equipment is on order, and again thanks are due to Loadhog for their generous donation, and to Laura who persuaded this local employer to fund this development.

And finally, we remember that 2024 will mark the 80th anniversary of the crash in Endcliffe Park of Mi Amigo, the USAF plane, with the loss of all crew members. It's especially important the memorial to these young airmen is well tended in this anniversary year, and the council will shortly be putting in smart new fencing and noticeboards. Also planned in the longer term are improved steps to access the memorial, a nationally known feature of the Porter Valley.

Ann le Sage

Activities for October to February

Any changes in the following details will be available on the website

When and Where	What and When
Tuesday 24 th October, 9.30 am	Conservation work morning
Wednesday 1 st November, 7.30 pm Bents Green Methodist Church Hall	How can we deliver Sheffield Nature Recovery? AGM and talk by Liz Ballard
Thursday 9 th November, 9.30 am	Conservation work morning making willow hoops for wreaths
Saturday 25 th November, 10.30 am	Tiptoe through the toadstools A walk led by Michael (Ziggy) Senkans
Monday 27 th November, 10-12 am	Christmas wreath-making for FoPV volunteers
Tuesday 28 th November, 9.30 am	Conservation work morning and wreath making
Saturday 2 nd December, 10 am	Walk tbc
Saturday 2 nd December, 10.30 am – 3.30 pm Fulwood Old Chapel, Whiteley Lane	Christmas Event with sales and refreshments
Tuesday 5 th December, 10 am – 2 pm Fulwood Old Chapel, Whiteley Lane	Christmas wreath-making for FoPV volunteers
Wednesday 6 th December, 6-8 pm Forge Dam Café	Wreath making event for families
Tuesday 12 th December, 6-8 pm Fulwood Old Chapel, Whiteley Lane	Wreath making event for families
Thursday 14 th December, 9.30 am	Conservation work morning and wreath making
Saturday 16 th December, 4 pm Forge Dam Café area	Christ Church Fulwood Christmas Music with FoPV sales stall
Sunday 17 th December, 12 noon (tbc) Forge Dam Café area	Pop-up Sales table Last chance to buy!
Wednesday 7 th February, 7.30 pm Bents Green Methodist Church Hall	Open meeting (details tba)

Conservation work mornings: for details, please contact Dave Clegg orielclegg@aol.com or Lyndon Porter lyndon@the-porters.me.uk or visit our website FOPV.org.uk

Walks: These are ticket events – for details and registration, please visit our website walks page. Registration opens two weeks before the walk.

The Committee:

Ann le Sage

Chair / talks

Lyndon Porter

Treasurer / walks

Glynis Jones

Secretary / newsletter

Les Greenwood

Newsletter

Mike Halliwell

Website / membership

Glyn Mansell

FD playground project

Rob Peck

Safety officer

David Young

Vice chair