

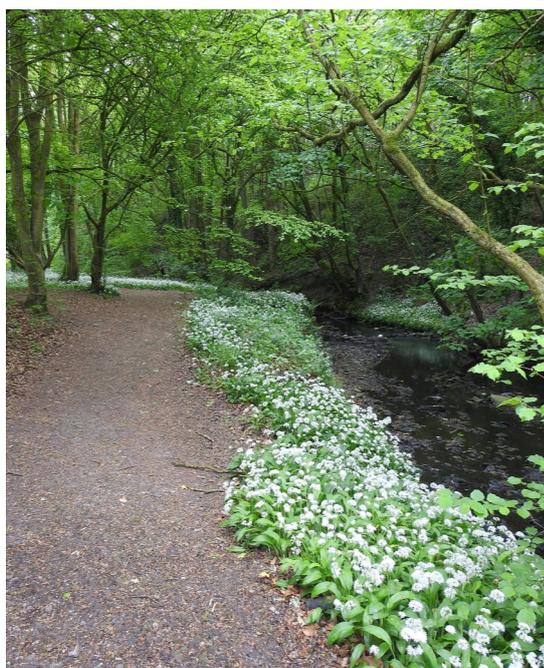
F TV NEWSLETTER

October/November 2019

This is first Newsletter as we feel it is important as a means of keeping you, our supporters, or rather FRIENDS, up to date with what we are doing and encouraging you to get involved.

You are receiving this because at some stage in the past few months you have given us your contact details. To meet Data Protection Requirements we now need you to confirm your commitment to The Friends of Tawd Valley and for this to happen we would ask you to read and then fill in your details on the attached FRIENDS' CHARTER. Keep a copy for yourself and send one back to us.

By doing this you will confirm your support for what we are trying to achieve and also we will be able to demonstrate this when applying for grants.



SO WHAT HAVE WE BEEN DOING?

Every Friday a small group of volunteers turn out with the support of a Countryside Ranger and carry out varied tasks in the Park.

To date we have: Litter Picked-Pulled all-sorts out of the river-Sown and harvested wildflower seeds-Carried out a variety of woodland management tasks-built footpaths ,a bridge and handrails-Planted an orchard and hedge-line-Cut and raked grass-Pull Himalayan Balsam and much more.

Most importantly the activities have been good for our health and well being, We have got to know each other and experienced good teamwork. **If you are free on a Friday**, please come and join us -We meet at 10am by the Play Park on Summer Street.

Alternatively, we have a Friends' Volunteer Event every first Saturday of the month with details on our Facebook page. (Friends of Tawd valley)

MEETINGS. It has been decided that the Management Committee will meet the second Thursday of each month for the first two months of each yearly quarter and the third month, again second Thursday, will be an Open meeting where all are welcome. Hopefully, these meetings will not be all business so that FRIENDS can socialise and get to know one another better. Therefore Dates for the rest of this year are: 5th October Volunteer Event (see Facebook); 2nd November Volunteer Event (see Facebook); 14th November Management Meeting; 12th December Open Friends Meeting (Venue to be confirmed); 7th December Volunteer Event (See Facebook).

At our last full meeting a small working group was formed to work on the eradication of Himalayan Balsam and to support the re-generation of natural flora in the valley. To this end there are plans to start a wildflower and tree nursery. Our Treasurer has been very busy applying for grants to support this and other projects and we will report more on this when we know the outcome.



To date we have had two successful **Walks in The Park**, enjoyed by those who participated with a lot of shared information about the Valley's Heritage. It is great news that The Skelmersdale Heritage Society is re-established and we will be looking to talk to their Committee to explore how we can, hopefully, work together.

One of the exciting commitments in WLBC Plan for the Tawd Valley Park was to position an Educational/Community facility on the Summer Street Allotment site as a base for School and other community groups when participating in activities in the Park. I am pleased to report that, following meeting with Council Officers, we have a plan for what is required, a budget and FOTV is in the process of applying to the Lancashire Environmental Fund for a grant for 38% of the total required. WLBC are committed to the rest.

This facility will be a great asset to the Park, user groups and to the two allotment site committees and of course to us – The Friends of Tawd Valley

Watch this space for updates.

An Appeal! FOTV is still a fledgling organisation, trying to find its way and being nurtured by a small group of committed volunteers who believe in The Park and want it and FOTV to grow into something exciting and valuable to Skelmersdale. We still have much to do to create a sound and sustainable organisation - policies to write; funds to find; equipment to buy; events and activities to plan and organise and much more but the most important is to RECRUIT YOU as FRIENDS willing to contribute in whatever way you can.

A number of you receiving this will have filled in a questionnaire and given us your contact details at the GREEN FAYRE and I apologise that we haven't come back to you sooner. But here we are now and we want your interest, knowledge, skills and time to help make FOTV grow and flourish.

Volunteers for practical tasks; secretarial/editorial skills; funding ideas and bid writing; sponsorship ideas/introductions; project/events organisers; fundraisers and more. But also we want you to enjoy the Tawd Valley Park, see it develop and get out of it what you want!

So please - Sign up as a FRIEND, let us know by e-mail how you think you would like to help or give us your ideas.

Facebook; Friends of Tawd valley

E-mail; tawdvalleyfriends.soc@gmail.com



Dates for your diary

The next scheduled Volunteer event is Saturday 2nd November 2019. Check our facebook page for details.



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The Big Climate Fightback - Woodland Trust

Plant a tree to help reduce your carbon footprint, tackle climate change and...

FRIENDS OF TAWD VALLEY -JOIN US TO COMBAT CLIMATE CHANGE!

Saturday 30th November

To coincide with the Woodland Trust's TREE CHARTER DAY, an annual celebration of woods, trees and people, the Friends of Tawd Valley are holding a tree planting event in the Tawd Valley Park. The Woodland Trust campaign 'The Big Climate Fightback' aims to get a million people pledging to plant trees and we are hoping the people of Skelmersdale will help us plant 900 saplings on this day.

With support from the Countryside Rangers and Friends of Tawd Valley volunteers we aim to plant a 150 metre hedgeline alongside the path leaving Mill Lane to the fishing pond. Once established this hedge will be a very beneficial wildlife habitat sheltering and feeding a host of creatures and of course absorbing carbon. To plant a bare root sapling we are requesting a minimum donation of £1.00 per sapling. All proceeds will support the purchase of the trees and the ongoing work of The Friends of Tawd Valley.

We will be operating, on site just above the Mill Lane underpass, on Glenburn Road from 10am to 2.30pm on Saturday 30th November. All necessary equipment will be supplied and there will be hot drinks and refreshments available at a cost, and supplied by the Junk Food Cafe. Warm clothing and boots or wellies are advised.

There is no vehicular access to the site so we urge you to enjoy a short walk from the Town Centre car parks with access to Mill Lane bridge (over the Tawd) from Inglewhite, Inskip or Irwell. From the bridge it is a short uphill walk to the planting site. Alternatively park on Mill Lane/Thornbury and approach via the underpass. Where ever you park please do so responsibly and with consideration for others.

For further information or advice e-mail tawdvalleyfriends.soc@gmail.com