

# F TV NEWSLETTER

December 2019 to January 2020

## Issue 2

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY AND HEALTHY NEW YEAR TO ALL OUR FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS.

Medical experts suggest that contact with the outdoor environment is good for our physical and mental well being. This being the case, why not, over the Christmas holiday period, get out into the TAWD VALLEY PARK and walk off some of the excess food and television that many of us consume over this period?

Better still why not make a NEW YEAR'S Resolution to get more involved with the FRIENDS OF TAWD VALLEY throughout 2020.

Visit our Facebook page to keep in touch with what we are doing and the activities we have coming up: Friends of Tawd valley.

Alternatively e-mail us on [tawdvalleyfriends.soc@gmail.com](mailto:tawdvalleyfriends.soc@gmail.com) and we will e-mail you a form to record your details and support for the Friends of Tawd Valley. E-mail it back and we will keep you in touch including copies of our E-Newsletter.



**MEETINGS.** It is really good news that the Skelmersdale Heritage Society has been reformed and in November their Chair and Treasurer joined our Committee to discuss how and where the two organisations could work together to achieve things of common interest. We decided to give the wider membership of both groups a chance to meet and agreed to hold a joint social event. This was held on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> December at the Wardens Club.

Members provided some festive nibbles and we have to thank Barry for his quiz. Honours for winning went to a team of Heritage Society members with a team from FOTV a close second. The raffle raised £85.00 shared between the two organisations. It was a very pleasant evening and many thanks to all who contributed in its success.



# Tawd Valley Park Mountain Bike Track

*Invite to public consultation*

**ALL WELCOME**

When—Tuesday 14th January, 28th January, 11th February 2020 at 7:00pm

Where - Lathom High School

Tawd Valley Park MTB public consultation event hosted by West Lancashire Borough Council Parks & Countryside Ranger Service & Tawd Valley Park ,

THE WOODLAND TRUST'S  
Tree Charter Weekend, 30th November



Recently we took part in the WOODLAND TRUST'S Tree Charter Weekend, a celebration of woods, trees and people.

The theme this year was the Big Climate Fightback and a million people were encouraged to plant trees. On November 30<sup>th</sup>, The Friends of the Tawd Valley got involved. Between 30 to 40 Skelmersdale residents, including small children planted 150 metres of hawthorn saplings above the Mill Lane/Glenburn Road underpass, alongside the path to the fishing lake. We provided hot drinks and biscuits, it was a beautiful cold but dry and sunny day and people worked hard but enjoyed the experience. We also thank those who attended for their kind donations which totalled almost £200.00. This will be invested in the work of the Friends of Tawd Valley and the Park.

When this hedge line matures it will provide shelter and food for a range of wildlife, not least winter berries for blackbird and thrushes, including Fieldfare and Redwing that visit us from Scandinavia. The plants will also absorb carbon and exhaust particles from traffic on the busy Glenburn Road.

Next time we hold such an event we hope we can attract at least 100 local residents.

## A Message of Appreciation!

It is always good to get confirmation that what you are doing is appreciated by those you are doing it for! When out on volunteering tasks, users of the Park often stop to enquire what we are doing and why? It is great when they move on with a smile, urging us to 'KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK'.

Stuart sent this message by contact form at Tawd Valley Park:

**Subject:** Great Job.

**Message:** I have used the park for years for walking and cycling and it's just great to see the new lease of life it is getting now. The new paths make it easier (and drier) to walk and will open up new areas which were previously inaccessible. Great job Everyone!

Thanks Stuart - much appreciated.



### FUTURE PLANS?

We are seeking further funds to place picnic tables, a BBQ stand and raised beds in a corner of the Orchard. This will be a facility for the local community to use for social activity and play in the open air. The raised bed will be planted with fruit bushes, rhubarb and other food plants, in the traditions of 'the Incredible Edible Movement'. As with the fruit in the Community Orchard, members of the community will be able to harvest this produce for free and hopefully use the beds to grow their own fruit and vegetables. If you Google – 'Incredible Edible –Todmorden, you can find out more about this fantastic movement. In the spring we plan to invite Mary Clear, one of the Founders, to come to Skelmersdale to give a talk and if sufficient interest, organise a trip to Todmorden to see where it all started.

## Fundraising.

Chris Dixon, FOTV Treasurer has been very busy applying to several funds to support the work and projects we wish to pursue. I am pleased to report he has had much success and we have been awarded the following:

Eric Wright Fund - £500.00 & WLBC Community Chest - £500.00 to purchase two electric strimmer to support the efforts to reduce Himalayan balsam in the Park.

Active West Lancs - £250.00 to fund First Aid and Walk Leader Training for volunteers willing to take a lead on organised walks. Let us know if this is something that interests you.

The application for a grant of £30,000.00 to support the positioning of a Classroom on the Tawd Vale Allotment site has been submitted and we will learn the outcome in late March 2020.

### TEAM TAWD VOLUNTEER EVENT

On Saturday December 7th, the December Team Tawd event, organised jointly with West Lancashire Ranger Service took place.

A hardy band of volunteers planted hundreds of Bluebell bulbs from 10 :00an until 12:30pm

Many thanks to everyone who came along to help. The next Team Tawd Volunteer event is on Saturday 4th January 2020.

See facebook page for details.



## Dates for your diary 2020

Management Committee Meetings:-

Thursday January 9th and February 14th (venue to be confirmed)

Open Members Meeting:-

Thursday March 12th. (venue to be confirmed)

Volunteering Dates: Saturday January 4th; Saturday February 1st; Saturday March 7th - meeting place and activity to be notified .

Check our facebook page and emails for details.

The proposed map of the Tawd Valley Country Park

