

# FOTV NEWSLETTER

February to March 2020

## Issue 3

2020 – The start of a new decade and I cannot believe how quickly time passes. It doesn't seem five minutes ago your Committee was discussing whether we could manage an E – Newsletter and now I am trying to pen something sensible for our third edition.

Mid February and real winter weather still to arrive at the same time as we are seeing signs of Spring – go into the Park and you will see hazel catkins, daffodils coming through the leaf litter and the shoots of wild garlic (ransom). As a keen birdwatcher, I am also listing the birds I see, both in and over the Valley Park.



*Hazel catkins*



*Daffodils*



*Wild garlic (Ransom)*

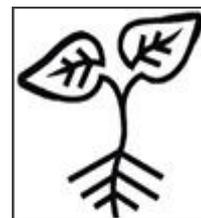
### **What does 2020 have in store for the Friends of Tawd Valley and the Park?**

The three Public consultation meetings to progress the creation of a bike park in the northern end of the Park have been well attended with lots of positive ideas and suggestions to consider and bring design ideas back to future meetings for Architrail who will construct the trail.

If things progress as planned the Bike Park will be in use for the School Summer holidays.



An example of 250m skills trail and pump track installed by Architrail at East-the-Water Primary School



The People's Postcode lottery has provided funding for 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 beds 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. We are also pleased to announce that we have invited Mary Clear, one of the Founders, to come to Skelmersdale to speak at our open meeting on Thursday March 12th at Ashurst Centre.

[see Facebook – Friends of tawd valley](#)

FOTV have put a bid of £30,000.00 into the Lancashire Environmental Fund as part funding for a converted shipping container, positioned on the Tawd Vale Allotment site, to serve as a facility for School and Community groups involved in activities in the Park. The unit will have a small kitchen and toilet facilities, use by Schools will be free with a range of fees for others depending on status. Progress reports on this as things develop.



### **GREAT BRITISH SPRING CLEAN – 20<sup>th</sup> March to 13<sup>th</sup> April.**

The Keep Britain Tidy organisation are currently asking Local Authorities to sign up for this and aim to provide resources to those who get involved.

I have confirmed that FOTV would wish to participate on Saturday 4th April and maybe Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> (Easter Saturday). If any members are willing to help we could organise something with the young people of Skelmersdale, this being the School holidays. E-mail your willingness to help and ideas to [tawdvalleyfriends.soc@gmail.com](mailto:tawdvalleyfriends.soc@gmail.com)



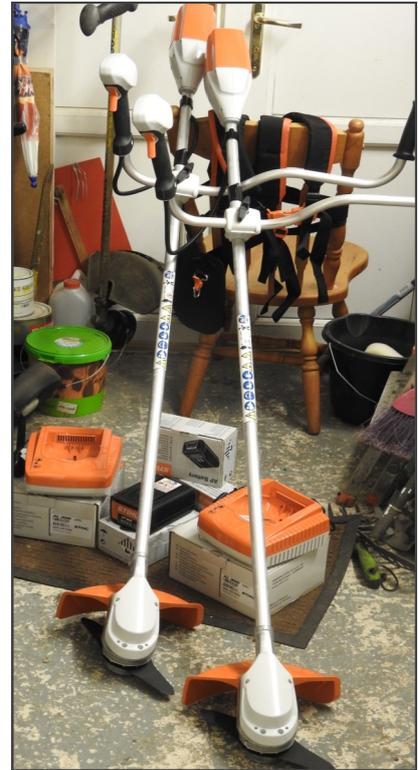
## Himalayan Balsam:

This plant is an INNS – Invasive Non Native Species. It is a prolific plant and blankets large areas thus preventing growth of native flora, important to the native insect population and therefore the natural cycle. Its explosive seed pods can launch seed over 7 metres and are further spread along waterways.

Were you one of our valiant volunteers who spent many sessions pulling up this plant last year? If so, we need you and others to help again this year as we make an even bigger effort to reduce the coverage of this plant in the Park.

With monies acquired we have two battery operated STIHL brush-cutters. These are to be used where the plant is growing amongst brambles and stinging nettles. We need adult volunteers who are willing to use this equipment so please contact the Committee, at events or via e-mail, so that briefing and training can be organised.

These are not dangerous tools to use, provided you are trained and operate them correctly.



## Membership and Activities.

Our Data Base now holds details of over 150 of you who have said that you want to be involved in The Tawd Valley Park and to be kept in touch with what is going on. This E-Newsletter is one way we thought we could do this but we would like it to be more than a one-way process.

Come back to us with your thoughts and comments, send us have some photographs of your activities in the Park or ideas for activities and events you would like to participate in. Tell us your interests, skills, expertise and more that you are willing to use so we can run more events and activities and help grow the organisation.

We are all volunteers and the more people who come on board, the more we will all get out of being involved with THE TAWD VALLEY PARK.

[E-mail: tawdvalleyfriends.soc@gmail.com](mailto:tawdvalleyfriends.soc@gmail.com)

Volunteer Event  
Saturday December 7<sup>th</sup> 2019.  
Planting Bluebell bulbs in  
Cobbs Clough.



## FIRST AID AND WALK LEADER TRAINING

Last summer, we managed to organise two led walks which were well attended And from feedback, thoroughly enjoyed. We would like to offer more, including events for those with limited mobility. To do this we need volunteer walk leaders with qualifications and/or experience. Walk Leaders with basic First Aid qualification or volunteers to go as second leader because they have FIRST AID qualifications. This is necessary for insurance purposes and as part of our care and responsibility to participants

Again we have been successful in securing money for training and are currently seeking more. We are also investigating people or organisations to operate the training and venues to use.

NB. Training sponsored by FOTV would require a negotiated minimum commitment in return.

Provisional dates for your Diary:

Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> March – Plant a tree volunteer Event in Park – 10am

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> March – Open Meeting – Incredible Edible- Ashurst Centre 7pm TBC

Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> April – Great British Spring Clean -10am

Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> May – FOTV 2<sup>nd</sup> AGM -time venue tbc – try to put this in your diary

Check our facebook page and emails for details.

### **PLANT A TREE IN 2020!**

Come along to our volunteer day, were we will ,be helping the Countryside Rangers with tree planting. Our volunteer days are fun and you will have the opportunity to make new friends whilst giving something back to the community.

We meet up at the turning circle, at the bottom of Summer Street, Ashurst.

Appropriate clothing for the weather and strong footwear is recommended.

Children are welcome to attend with a responsible adult.

And in the coming months and years you will be able to watch the trees you have planted grow with a sense of pride.



Plenty of volunteers on Saturday 1st February uncovering an old brick pathway. The bricks are from the Lathom