

F TV NEWSLETTER

April to May 2020

Issue 4

I hope this finds all our Friends and Supporters fit and well in these strange and unprecedented times. Obviously the lock down and isolation from friends, family, colleagues and the everyday things we normally do, has put a hold on the activities of the Friends of Tawd Valley, but it won't be like this forever and we will pick up with activities as soon as possible.

One thing we are allowed, is an hour's activity for exercise, per day. I have been taking mine following different circuits around the Valley Park and this has been a terrific help to my health and my physical and mental wellbeing. Get out there and enjoy it yourselves but ensure you maintain the distancing rules and undertake it with members of your own household, if not alone.

It has been great to follow the development of spring, migrant birds arriving and pairing, trees bursting into leaf and blossom, ground flora breaking through, butterflies and other insects buzzing around and much more. It is also good to see walkers, with or without the dog, joggers/runners and cyclists also enjoying the Park. Let us hope they continue to use and enjoy the Park when all returns to normal.

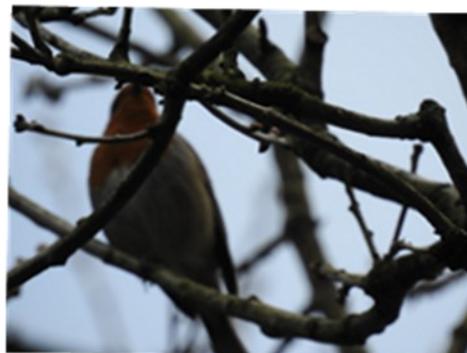
As we have had to postpone our scheduled Annual General Meeting – May14th – we are publishing the Annual Report and Financial Statement in this Newsletter. I hope you enjoy the read and agree we have come a fair way since last May and have the ideas and resources to go further.

We will re-arrange the AGM as soon as we can and we hope to see many of you at that event and maybe put yourself forward to help make the Organization stronger.

We include some images of the Park which we hope will give you a lift!!!



Grey Wagtail



Robin



Bluebells – December 7th – 1000 additional bulbs planted in Cobbs Clough by volunteers.



Lesser Celandine



Blossoming Fruit tree and daffodils in the Orchard.



Second grey wagtail – they bred on the river last year.



Handrail and steps to fishing platform constructed by Friday's Team Tawd Volunteers



The New Cycleway as it leaves Mill Lane Bridge heading for Town!



Footbridge by Orchard built by Team Tawd Volunteers.



Fishing lake – main spur with fishing platforms. Litter bin installed by Team Tawd just visible.



Remnant of brick road way –
February 1st – cleared by volunteers
as part of preparation for Heritage
Trail



View of river with daffodils

FRIENDS OF TAWD VALLEY

ANNUAL REPORT 2019 – 2020

Committee:

Chair:	Terry Lake.	Vice Chair:	Rita Newby
Treasurer:	Chris Dixon	Secretary:	Claire Cooper
IT/Comms:	Zoe Hilton	Allotment Liaison:	Don Brookes
Member:	Elaine Brookes	Member:	Paula Campbell

When I spoke after my election last May I stated that I thought F.O.T.V. was a fledgling organisation and not to expect to much as we needed to learn to walk before starting to run.

Thanks to the efforts and support of the Committee I think we have done better than expected and I hope having read this report you will agree we have at least trotted along.

The first task was to organise a bank account and this was achieved with Santander and a start- up grant of £500.00 from WLBC. This also entailed, a very minor adjustment to the Constitution, voted through at a monthly meeting.

£518.00 sponsorship from Tawd Valley Lions paid for a pop-up, pamphlets, post cards and stick on badges for publicity and promotional purposes. Our grateful thanks to the Lions. A pop-up map of the Park was given into our care by WLBC. These items have all been put to good use throughout the year including a two week display at the Library.

Thanks to the efforts and dedication of our Treasurer, Chris Dixon other funds were secured from a number of sources – Funding bodies and through donations, details in the Accounts.

Monthly indoor meetings continued with great fluctuation in numbers attending and as matters needing attention built the Committee felt open meetings with different make up

each month were not getting this done. In September we proposed a change to management committee meetings the first two months of each quarter with an open meeting in the third month. This was accepted at the September meeting and to date open meetings have included a joint Christmas social with the Heritage Society and a talk by Mary Clear, of Incredible Edible, Todmorden, in March. We need the wider membership to comment on this way of working and to propose ideas for the Open Meetings. There will be an opportunity to start this process immediately following the Business Meeting of the AGM.

Alongside this arrangement for meetings we also said we would publish at least two E-Newsletters every three months. As I write this on 1st March our 3rd Newsletter has just been sent over the air waves! You can comment on the Newsletters and or submit a contribution via our e-mail.

It is important to FOTV that we work closely with Council Officers and the Countryside Rangers.

Having discussed the proposal to place a facility, for educational and community use, on the Tawd Vale allotment site, we agreed to submit a funding bid to the Lancashire Environmental Fund for £30,000.00. This as part funding for a 40foot by 12foot converted shipping container with small kitchen and adjoining toilet facilities. WLBC will contribute around £50,000.00 more.

Result of this bid will be known post 25 March and I wish to record here our thanks to Steve Kent for his support in the bidding process. Furthermore, our thanks to Helen Dix and Sara Clowes, from the Tawd Valley Working Group who submitted, on our behalf, a successful £15,000.00 bid to the Whitemoss Fund for the Waterworks part of the project.

Volunteering has continued throughout the year – Team Tawd on Fridays and the first Saturday of every month. Numbers of supporters attending has shown a reasonable increase but you can never have enough volunteer. Tasks have been very varied but all have been important to maintaining and improving the Park for the benefit of the environment, nature and Park users.

Removal of Himalayan Balsam is the biggest and an ongoing task and a big thanks to all who worked on this last summer. We intend to organize even more sessions this next growing season and with funds accrued we have purchased two Stihl battery operated brush-cutters to attack the plant when amongst bramble and stinging nettle. Any adult happy to use this equipment will receive briefing and training.

The orchard and adjoining paths gave us a fantastic display of bulbs and wild flowers, early summer and seeds were harvested and redistributed for a repeat performance this year. A big thank you to Simon, who planted many more bulbs alongside the northern paths, which have given more pleasure this spring. More seed went into the meadow north of Summer Street bridge and 1000 blue bell bulbs went into Cobbs Clough.

On the 30th November and in support of the Woodlands Trust 'Big Climate Fight Back Campaign' 60 volunteers turned out to plant 150 metres of hawthorn hedgerow beside the path down to the fishing lake. Not only did they work hard but also donated £200.00 to support our work. Thanks to everyone who contributed. A very pleasant surprise following this event was the receipt of a £1000.00 donation from the Oak Church community and for which we were very grateful.

The idea from volunteers to create a 'pocket park' adjacent to the orchard received a boost when we were awarded a £1990.00 grant from the Post Code Lottery for the construction of the raised beds. A further bid to fund galvanised steel picnic tables and steel BBQ stand was not successful. We try again! The visit of Mary Clear, founder member of Incredible Edible, Todmorden was arranged to coincide with the press release about this grant. Mary, visited the planned orchard location and meet young people from Lathom School who regularly work with the Rangers, undertook a walk in the Park and gave an inspiring, amusing slide show and talk at the Ashurst Centre, that evening. We had been offered support by employees from Jaguar/Land Rover to construct the beds!

BUT then March 16th arrived and life suddenly became different with the need to avoid contact with others. Team Tawd stood down until further notice – Great British Spring Clean put back to the Autumn. - Decision on Lancashire Environmental Fund bid delayed until further notice - April Committee meeting and May AGM cancelled and maybe much more put on hold.

So you will understand why you are receiving the Friends of Tawd Valley Annual Report and Financial Report in the form of our fourth E-Newsletter.

Throughout the crisis, to date, I have taken daily exercise in the Park and have been pleased to see others doing the same.

It has been good to see the gradual development of spring, the birds pairing and nesting, the trees coming into leaf and the ground Flora emerging. Of the latter there is way too much Himalayan Balsam coming through and sadly we may not be able to organise our planned volunteer sessions to remove it. As I write the fruit trees in the orchard are blossoming with daffodils and crocus scattered around. Wild flowers are emerging along the path side .

Our last volunteer task was to Plant 400 plus bare root tree whips on the grassy slope between Yewdale and Mill Lane alongside Glenburn Road. I am pleased to report the majority are showing leaf at this time.

Our Constitution reads: *'Members elected to the committee will only serve for a period of one year but shall be able to submit themselves for re-election if they so wish.'*

I personally think this puts the continuity of the Organisation at risk if all step down together and you are then left with a completely new committee, an incomplete Committee or no Committee at all. I think this needs discussion and decisions before we eventually get to an AGM with an amendment for all to vote on.

I also feel we need to have more named officers on the Committee and would appeal to all Friends/Members/Supporters to consider what skills they could bring to the Committee and put themselves forward for election.

Submitting for re-election this year are:

Terry Lake	Chair.
Chris Dixon	Treasurer
	Secretary
	Communication & IT Officer
Elaine Brookes	Tawd Valley Working Party Liaison
Don Brookes	Tawd Vale Allotments Liaison
Paula Campbell	Member

We require nominations for the following Committee positions:

Vice Chair

Secretary

If serving on a Committee is not your thing we still need your thoughts and ideas and help to further develop the Friends of Tawd Valley. Running a community organization requires time, ideas, skills, contacts, money through grants, sponsorship or donations and lots more.

Are you someone who could contribute?

If so, contact us through: tawdvalleyfriends.soc@gmail.com

FRIENDS OF TAWD VALLEY ANNUAL ACCOUNTS YEAR ENDED 31/03/2020

BALANCE SHEET	RE- STRICTED	UNRE- STRICTED	TOTAL
ASSETS			
BANK AND CASH	823.70	3,322.81	4,146.51
DEBTORS	119.3		119.3
TOTAL ASSETS	943	3322.81	4265.81
LIABILITES			
CREDITORS		75	75
TOTAL LIABILITIES	0	75	75
NET ASSETS	943	3247.81	4190.81
SURPLUS FOR YEAR	943	3247.81	4190.81

Notes

(1) RESTRICTED INCOME

Where the income from funders is defined in the request for income then expenditure is restricted to those items for which the funding has been granted. In addition the funder may restrict the period within which the expenditure can take place.

The Post Code Local Trust Funding, £1,990, was originally restricted but due to the problems caused by the COV19 regulations limiting group meetings the Trust have made the funding unrestricted, and thus we can use the funds as we see fit and in what period we wish.

We have written to West Lancs CVS who administer the remaining restricted fundings which have not been matched by expenditure, Active West Lancs (£250) and CCG Small Pot (£693) asking that they extend the period of expenditure at least to the end of 2020 and further if necessary to allow their completion.

(2) DEBTORS

Included in the funding amount but retained until completion of the projects are £50 for the Eric Wright funding and £69.30 for the CCG Small Pot funding. These amounts are included in income and an amount of £119.30 is included in debtors.

(3) CREDITORS

An amount of £75 is included in expenditure and creditors to cover expenses and a contribution to Incredible Edible Todmorden for their support with the raised bed project and the talk in March. This will be paid to them shortly.