

SHOLING VALLEYS NEWSLETTER

June 2017

SPRING FAYRE

Another extremely successful day!



For the third year running, the weather was dry and sunny after early morning rain. All the stallholders had a successful day; we had some “first timers” such as Southern Water, YMCA Nursery, a sweet and china stall and Forest Schools. Regular visitors, the Woodturners were joined by Eastleigh Mens Shed. In total we had 25 stalls plus our own stalls and games as well as an authentic street organ. This year, there was great emphasis on children’s activities with plenty of games and “hands on activities”. We are very grateful to organisations such as the Maritime Archaeology Trust, Sustrans and the Hampshire



Bat Group for coming along providing important information. Unfortunately, Pauline Kidner, our Patron, could not attend as taking out animals on long distances is no longer considered welfare

friendly. However, we were in her thoughts and she sent her best wishes for a successful day. To fill the void left by Pauline, we held games such as egg and spoon race, sack race, three-legged race and wellie throwing. Candy cheated as usual.



Hilliers Nurseries again donated numerous shrubs as did local residents. After each event we always discuss what went well, what we can improve on and what we can do differently next year to make the event even more enjoyable. We have already taken into consideration ideas, suggestions and comments made by our visitors ready for next year. We must again say an enormous thank you to our squadron of volunteers who worked tirelessly throughout the day manning the stalls, making refreshments, etc. Events such as this would not be possible without them. Almost £3,000 was taken less expenses. Thanks to Bruce Larnar for the photos.



WORK BEGINS ON WOODLAND PATHS

We reported earlier on the successful application for a grant from the Tesco 5p bag scheme in order to upgrade the paths around the Local Nature Reserve. We had a very busy weekend the week before the Spring Fayre when we hired machinery, in other words “boys and their toys”.



CONSERVATION WORK DAYS

Our monthly workdays are as busy as ever. As you can see we now have a boat thanks to the generous donation from Bruce Larner. This is proving invaluable for getting the lily out of the pond. It will hold two light people or Gareth on his own. Tidying up of the footpaths and copse is continuing during the summer months and we also get our younger members to do some work.



BAT EVENING

We held our first Bat Evening of the year on the 19th April. We tried to limit the attendance to 80 and asked for bookings but 92 still managed to turn up. We had a very enjoyable evening watching the pipistrel bats over the pond. We also had our new moth trap set up but it was a little too early in the year to see very many.



VOLUNTEERS

We had a group of 10 volunteers come along from Excelilas Technologies of Hamble to clear some lily from the pond and also tidy up the copse.



FOONOTE

Candy completed the Southampton Half Marathon yet again.



The Queen's Award
for Voluntary Service
The MBE for volunteer groups

