

# SHOLING VALLEYS NEWSLETTER

December 2017

## BUSY AUTUMN!

So much has happened since our last Newsletter.

## PUMPKIN FESTIVAL

We had an extremely successful day yet again. The crowds didn't seem as large as last year but it was still very busy. All pumpkins, beetroot and plants were sold as well as a great deal of pickled onions and jams. The tombolas ran out as well as children's prizes. We also held play your cards right for the first time which worked well. The organisers came to thank us for all our hard work and for creating "Sholing Valleys Corner".



**FOREST SCHOOLS** held sessions again during half-term in October which were very well supported and enjoyed by all the children.

Yet again we had to cancel the **BAT EVENING** which had been rescheduled from August. The weather was appalling but it was very disappointing for those who had booked as many of them originated from the April event which was over-subscribed.

## CHRISTMAS FAYRE

This year we experimented on holding the Christmas Fayre at the Study Centre. Catering, children's colouring and making yule logs were held inside with Father Christmas in his grotto. Several gazebos were erected on the lawn with lights and backing panels with our normal stalls. The Miller's Pond pub served mulled wine.



## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The following officers were voted in at the meeting last month. Chairman – Colin Oliphant, Vice-Chairman – Candy Snelling, Treasurer – Linda Oliphant, Secretary – Val Wells. Committee – Richard Barton, Steve Crabbe, Joanne Gulliver, Claire Jenkins, Mac Ince, Claude New and Terry Rendle. There are still vacancies on the Committee and anyone interested can be co-opted. E-mail [sholingvalleys1@btinternet.com](mailto:sholingvalleys1@btinternet.com).

## NEW YEAR'S EVE

As it is a Sunday, we will be holding a regular workday from 10.00 a.m. until 1.00 p.m. So come along and work off all the Christmas over eating and lounging on the sofa and get in trim for the forthcoming year.

## 2018 WORKDAYS

These will be held on the last Sunday of the month, i.e. 28<sup>th</sup> January, 25<sup>th</sup> February and 25<sup>th</sup> March from 10.00 a.m. until 3.00 p.m.

## HILLIERS NURSERIES

On Friday, 1<sup>st</sup> December, Candy, Dave and Mac with the support of Richard, visited the Head Office and former stately home of the Hillier's family in Ampfield to thank the Company for their ongoing support. Over the past three years the Hillier's Nursery, owned by the family, have kindly donated plants to sell at the Spring Fayre and external events. These donations have raised valuable funds for the Centre and its outreach activities. Last year the plant sales made over £400. Robert Hillier was presented with a certificate as a sign of thanks and gratitude. Without the funds raised through both private and public donations, the Centre would not be able to offer the range of activities that we do, or afford much of the equipment required to maintain and conserve the Millers Pond Local Nature Reserve. Hillier's Nursery is a great community-focused company and we are delighted that they have chosen to support us again this year.



## OLAFS TUN

Continuing the theme of support from local businesses, Richard presented local micro-pub in Woolston, Olafs Tun, with a thank you certificate for their donations collected on the bar.



## ITCHEN NORTH BEAVERS

30 children from this Group visited the Centre on the 3<sup>rd</sup> October for pond dipping at both the shallow and deep ends of the pond.



## CONSERVATION WORK DAYS

A tremendous amount of work has been achieved during September, October and November. Himalayan Balsam has been cleared, work on the edge of the meadow and clearing the small copse are just a small number of tasks completed. We also had an extra day when No. 1 container was cleared out as water had seeped in causing mould to form on everything.



**MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL OUR MEMBERS AND VOLUNTEERS. THANK YOU FOR ALL YOUR SUPPORT OVER THE PAST YEAR AND HERE'S TO 2018.**



