

SHOLING VALLEYS NEWSLETTER

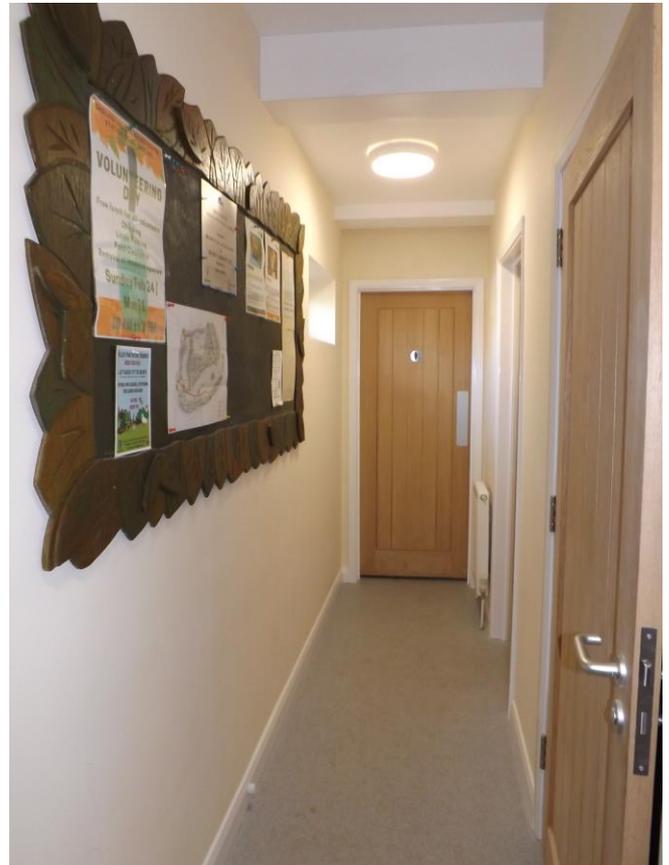
March 2019

NEW TOILET BLOCK

We have all but finished building a new toilet block which will eventually include a fully equipped disabled facility, which has been in the planning for well over 12 years. We have been held back all this time as we did not have enough money despite all the fund raising we undertook over the years with our very successful Spring, Summer and Christmas Fayres. However, a couple of years ago, we decided we couldn't wait any longer so began the construction. No sooner did we start then there was a deluge of rain and we thought about building a swimming pool instead!



With Colin and his firm undertaking most of the work and begging materials from local suppliers, either free or at cost, we have been able to construct a £60,000 + job for around £22,000. We also received a generous donation from Bruce Larnar which paid for the roof. Many of our members have been helping out with painting, decorating and building work. We are very grateful to our loyal team who have worked tirelessly for no reward other than the pride of keeping the area as pristine as possible despite the constant dust and rubble. We are pleased to say that apart from a little bit of finishing off in the disabled toilet itself, the toilet block is now finished. We also intend to have some new main entrance doors which will allow easy access for wheelchairs. Everyone involved should be proud of what we have achieved.



Kenny Donald undertook most of the final touches of decorating and also made this wonderful mural for the wall.



CONSERVATION WORK DAYS

Don't forget about our Work Days being held on the last Sunday of the month. The next one is the 31st March and then 28th April and 26th May. We have achieved a great deal of work since Christmas but unfortunately our chipper has broken down and is due to be repaired. The work to clear the shallow end of the pond has been completed, fallen trees dealt with and work has begun on eradicating the Virginia Creeper.



The Naturewatch Group continues to meet on the same days from 10.30 a.m. – 12.30 p.m. and has been well attended undertaking various projects.

FUTURE EVENTS

Did you come along to the Spring Fayre last year? What an amazing day! This year the **Spring Fayre** is on Saturday, 18th May. There will be the usual plant sales, barbecue, bouncy castle, various games and plenty of cakes. If you are able to spare any time to help us on the day we would be very grateful. It doesn't matter how long you can spare, every little helps. We need help setting up in the morning putting up all the gazebos from about 6.30 a.m. and taking down afterwards at the end of the day. We would also like help running our stalls such as tombola, raffle, coconut shy, etc. We have a wide variety of stallholders offering various crafts as well as Falcon High, Hampshire Bat Group, Woodturners and many, many more. Steam engine "Garrett" will be in attendance. There will be many activities for the children including the YMCA, Face Painter and Bursledon Brickworks. Monty's Bike Hub will be running a bike check/bike repair service for a donation.

Also, if you have any items of unwanted birthday/Christmas presents that would be suitable for tombola or raffle prizes, please let us know at sholingvalleys1@btinternet.com.

BAT WALK – this is to be held on Wednesday, 17th April from 7.30 p.m. We are grateful to Steve Groom for taking over these events with the help of Surender Sharma. If you are interested in coming, there will be a donation of £3 payable and bookings should be made to sholingvalleyslnr@gmail.com.

Following the very successful Apple Day last year, we are keen to hold more events on the Reserve for the local community. Steve Groom and Claire Jenkins are looking to organise some events for children during the summer holidays. We are also going to have a Bioblitz Day on Saturday, 7th September. We are lucky to have Phil Budd who is willing and able to record the data officially. A Community Fayre of some sort will be held at the same time. There will be more information about this day in due course but please make a note of this date in your diary.

We will be attending the Netley Regatta event on Saturday, 1st June and the Pumpkin Festival on Saturday, 12th October. Please support these wonderful events.

