

# FRIENDS OF EMROYD

NEWSLETTER NO 2 March 2015

A big thank you to those people who attended the second meeting of Friends of Emroyd on 19 January 2015 where the Friends of Emroyd group was formally constituted and a management group elected.

The group have been busy making contact with interested parties who can support the use, the development and the maintenance of the common. The details of this are given below in the update.

We have also agreed how we would like the route to look which is being developed around the edge of the common to take in the meadow field at the bottom of the common. The parish council will now need to apply for planning permission for construction of the surface. We are also aiming to apply for grants for the development.

The **Friends of Emroyd** are holding a **work day** on **SATURDAY 28 MARCH 2015 FROM 10AM TO 2PM**. The purpose of this is to undertake some cutting back and pruning of vegetation, litter picking and improving the triangle area near the footpath at the bottom of the common from Thornhill Road. This area of land will be used in educational programmes by schools and by the Friends of Emroyd as a nursery area. We would like as many people as possible to attend this work day and we are meeting at 10 am at the cemetery gates. Please come appropriately dressed and bring , if you feel necessary, some lunch and a flask. If you would like to be part of the party cutting back vegetation please bring your own appropriate hand tools. Litter picking equipment will be supplied.

A **General Meeting of the Friends of Emroyd** will take place on **MONDAY 20<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 8pm in Middlestown Working Men's Club**. At this AGM the officers on the management group will be elected. Also the plans for the common will be discussed further and it is hoped local residents will attend to discuss and inform the meeting of their views.

The following is an update on the work the management group have been involved in:

- The war commemorations which consist of the meadow land project, arboretum, warhorse memorial and centenary way (an access for all track) are continually being developed.
- Highfield School at Ossett are now actively involved in supporting the developments and maintenance of Emroyd. They are also helping us plan the use of the triangle of land on Thornhill Road as a nursery and work area.
- The conservation volunteers have cutback vegetation on some of the existing network of paths and will be undertaking some preparation for hedge laying in the autumn.
- A selection of trees and Grow Wild seeds have been applied for and supplied free of charge. Young people from schools and the friends will be planting these under the supervision of the Wakefield Tree Warden.
- Local groups are being engaged with the project such as the Sitlington Camera Club, Wakefield District Biodiversity Group, and The Wakefield and District Badger Group. Advice is also being sought from national organisations such as the Department of the environment about the pond. A survey of the pond will take place in the spring. Following this it is hoped work around the pond such as sapling removal will open the pond up for educational activities.
- During the discussions on the developments it became evident the track at the bottom of the common is flooding in the winter. The parish council is hoping this can be addressed with all the landowners with the support of the District Council.

We are hoping local residents will be interested in the work being undertaken and put their names forward to receive information from the Friends of Emroyd and the Parish Council. PLEASE SPREAD THE WORD.

If you have any comments on the proposals or anything in this newsletter please forward them to the clerk to the parish council in the first instance (telephone: 01924 261481 or [clerk@sitlingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@sitlingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk))

Thank you

Friends of Emroyd