

FRIENDS OF EMROYD COMMON

NEWSLETTER NO 1 - DECEMBER 2014

A big thank you to those people who attended the meeting on 18 November 2014 where it was recognised a Friends of Emroyd Common would be welcomed by the Parish Council and the residents of Sitlington.

The focus of a Friends group will be to help improve the maintenance of the area and engage with the Parish Council in developing areas within the common as part of the commemorations for World War I.

A further meeting of the Friends of Emroyd Common will be planned for the middle of January where it is hoped the formal constitution can be agreed and an events programme planned.

In the meantime the Sitlington Development Group of the Parish Council has been seeking advice from groups and organisations to further develop the ideas people had at the meeting. It has also sought a financial commitment from the Parish Council for some of the plans which could be developed.

The following is an update

- The War commemorations, which consist of the meadow land project, arboretum, warhorse memorial and centenary way (an access for all track), are continually being explored. Advice has been sought on how best to achieve the meadowland which may involve crop growing for a number of years for the benefit of the soil. A number of horse chestnut plants have been donated and a sculpture and stone memorial are being costed together with the provision of centenary way.
- Grow Wild seed kits have been applied for and it is hoped the local schools will engage with the planting under the supervision of the Wakefield Tree Wardens.
- Fruits of the Forest. A large wild harvest tree pack has been applied for from the Woodland Trust.
- It is proposed the Friends group hold working parties with conservation volunteers in such activities as hedge laying and sapling removal.
- Local groups, such as the Sitlington Camera Club, Yorkshire Wildlife Trust, and the Wakefield District Biodiversity Group, are being engaged with the project.
- The Wakefield and District Badger Group have been contacted and we will work with them to protect the badgers.
- A survey in the common took place on Saturday 13 December 2014 by Arthur Ripley (Vice-Chair, Wakefield District Biodiversity Group) and Dr David Hemmingway (Wakefield District Biodiversity Group and Entotax Consultants UK) which included the pond area to develop the next steps to survey for the great crested newts.

We look forward to your continued support and hope you can attend a meeting to be held at The Reindeer Inn, Overton at 7.00 pm on 19 January to formally constitute the friends group and agree the final detail of the plans for the area. You will be notified by e-mail of the date and it will be publicised locally. In the meantime if you have any thoughts on the above please send them to the Clerk to the Parish Council – contact details can be found at www.sitlingtonparishcouncil.gov.uk.

SEE YOU IN THE NEW YEAR!