

May 2016

Apologies for not letting you know what's going on – your support deserves better.

Fundraising

We have just received two generous and unsolicited **donations** – always a pleasure! (Hint!)

Pill Whist Club

“We have all enjoyed the lovely Flower Bank and this is our way of saying ‘Thank You’ for all the pleasure it brings”

Keith Summerhayes, Lodway Service Station

“I’d like to support you for all the good work that you do.”

Walks

Our monthly **walks** have a very loyal following who, apart from enjoying the walk and pub lunch contribute generously to our funds. (More details on the website)

Talks

Are still in demand. Six last year and two booked for the Autumn – not all are people just looking for an entertaining interlude!

Out on the Reserve

To compensate for land lost to the bus-lane we had a couple of work-parties clearing the scrub on top of the bank opposite the Cowslip area. This got rather overlooked so some things grew too well – however the mower made short work of it and I’ve cleared it back again to give the meadow plants a chance to establish – see the photos.

The Primroses and Cowslips started extraordinarily early but most developed at a more normal time. Now there’s a great crop of Ox-eye Daisies and Bird’s Foot Trefoil, with Knapweed & Scabious showing well. Not much evidence of any Orchids yet – amazingly it’s rather dry out there.

Surveying

We continue to do fixed-point photo surveys to record how the site develops and we monitor the Dormouse boxes.

It’s not very likely that we will have Dormouse even though there is some good habitat but the Council funded the boxes. So far we’ve had some used by Yellow-necked Mice and several by Blue Tits and Great Tits – not all wasted effort.

Jean Oliver is one of our work-party volunteers but deserves special mention for regularly visiting the Reserve to record all the fungi. Amazingly she has identified over 100 species – Thank You, Jean.

Soon Rupert Higgins, a well-known ecologist, will be repeating the full plant survey that he has done for us before.

His first report in 2004 included this quote – “*A total of 157 species was recorded – an outstanding figure for a relatively small site.*”

The Botany Section of Bristol Naturalists’ Society will be visiting next month for a field meeting.

Both may increase the list of plants found out there. Over the years we have claimed to have identified 280 native plants and 30 garden escapes – though the first figure is open to confirmation!

Work to do

You might like to join in helping to clear some of the invasive plants.

Ash, Bracken, Bramble, Clematis, Dogwood, Everlasting Pea, Field Maple, Ragwort need to be removed before they overwhelm the meadow plants.

I’ll send out details of the next work-party in the next couple of weeks.

Thank you for helping keep St. George’s Flower Bank blooming