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Forest Town Nature Conservation Group

CHRISTMAS 2021 NEWSLETTER



Another amazing photograph of Spa Ponds taken by Dennis (on 29th November 2021)

Season's Greetings to all FTNCG Members and Supporters

Looking back on 2021 I am amazed by how much has been achieved, and by how many wonderful people have been involved in these achievements. My sincere thanks go out to everyone who has contributed, whether or not you are 'name checked' in this newsletter. Most of our work has concentrated on three parts of Spa Ponds: Chestnut Wood (including the Natural England-funded phase of the Keep the Forest Buzzing pollinator project), Peel Wood (including the Sherwood M2M Partnership-funded Habitat Improvement project), and the River Maun (including the Severn Trent-funded Spawn on the Maun project).

And it was a good job we had so many projects on the go, because throughout 2021 FTNCG was blessed with a record number of new volunteers. In addition to the growing number of FTNCG volunteers, we were joined by a variety of M2M volunteers organised by Natilee from the Notts Wildlife Trust, as well as volunteers from Portland College, Mansfield Building Society, Solus Scientific, Liberty Global, and from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Professional support has come from many directions, not least from our deepening partnership with Ecologic's Andy Hollis, as well as our ongoing relationships with WatersideCare / Keep Britain Tidy, the Notts Biodiversity Action Group, and the Forestry Commission (whose Woodland Officer helped us finalise our Woodland Management Plan and secure our felling license).

Special thanks go to our Wardens Alan and Barry who keep a close eye on Spa Ponds day after day, to the Forest Town Community Council for ongoing interest in the progress being made by FTNCG, and the Bealby family for invaluable and unforgettable assistance with the Spawn on the Maun project.

2021 also saw FTNCG welcoming long-time FTNCG volunteer Samantha as a new Trustee, working for the charity alongside existing Trustees Alan, Dennis, Jez, Josh, Lorraine, Mark, Phil, and Shlomo. Trustees agreed a new Site Management Plan for Spa Ponds, which is available from our website at: <http://www.foresttown.net/nature>

In addition to the project-based funding mentioned above, FTNCG received financial donations from our members and from Portland College, ASDA, Volunteer Friends of Oakwood Fields, and our County Councillors (past & present), and thanks go to the Whitegates for letting volunteers use their car park.

On behalf of FTNCG Trustees, I would like to thank you for all of your kind support in 2021, and wish you a safe and wonderful year ahead,

Shlomo

Chair of the Forest Town Nature Conservation Group (FTNCG)