

Forest Town Nature Conservation Group (FTNCG)

Wednesday 31st October 2012, from 7 pm, at Forest Town Welfare



Present: Lorraine (Chair), Dave (Vice-Chair), Shlomo (Secretary), Josh (Treasurer), Ian (Site Management Support), Alyson (Membership Secretary), Dorothy, Colin, Margaret, Christine, Rose, Alan, Betty, Barry, Malcolm, Pauline, Helen, Megan, and Andy (NWT) [19]

Apologies: Frances, Jeff (Rushpool Representative), Jo (MDC), Ron, Francis, Arnold, Shirley Tovey [7]

British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) Talk – Dorothy and Ian

Dorothy gave some personal context to the work she does surveying birds along the River Maun, parallel to Stinting Lane. Dorothy kindly shared her childhood experience learning about the natural world, and how that inspired her to survey birds, and how the destruction of a hedge resulting in the senseless death of dozens of birds, inspired Dorothy to help protect endangered birds and other wildlife.

Announcements and updates

- **Christmas Party** Wednesday evening 5th December 2012, from 7 pm, FTNCG Christmas celebration at the White Gates, Clipstone Road East. Please invite others to join this social event. Bring food to share; drinks, including soft drinks, can be purchased from the bar.
- **Finance Update** Current balance is £1,216.39 after having purchased some tools.
- **Spa Ponds** Confidential briefing (available on request) was circulated and discussed. No decisions were made, as discussion was intended to inform the Management Committee who will meet on Wednesday evening 7th November to consider this and other matters.
- **Green Guardian Award** Application submitted prior to the deadline; result not known.
- **Rushpool Nature Conservation Area** Site meeting held with MDC, with draft site map produced. Also, Jo supplied some old maps, which show no sign of a landfill site. Christine noted that some consider the site to be part of Larkhills. There was also an update received from Jo regarding the ordering of plants. The report back from the site visit and the update from Jo gave rise to heated discussions, which again will be further considered by the FTNCG Management Committee on 7th November.
- **NWT AGM** Ian gave a report back from NWT's AGM held on Saturday 20th October.
- **Friends of Greenwood (FoG) Community Forum** Rose, Shlomo, Lorraine and Josh attended Monday 8th October, where we heard an uplifting Himalayan Balsam update from Chris (NottsBAG).
- **Hedge Laying** On hold.
- **Sherwood Habitats Forum Annual Event** Organised by the Sherwood Forest Trust, takes place at Ransom Wood Business Park on Thursday 15th November from 9:30am – 4:30pm. This year's Forum aims to explore some of the new opportunities for enhancing Sherwood Forest's valuable habitats, and a number of presentations scheduled for the day, including: Valuing nature...but who pays? – Dr. Adrian Southern (Sherwood

Partnership); The Soil Fertility and Sustainability of Heathlands – Ed Tripp (NWT); Nottinghamshire Biodiversity Offsetting Pilot – Nick Crouch (NCC); The Woodland Carbon Code – Nick Atkinson (Woodland Trust); Proposed Sherwood Forest Partnership Scheme. Morning of presentations followed by afternoon tour of the Ransom Wood site with Charles Cannon. Refreshments and buffet lunch will be provided so please inform the organisers if you have any special dietary requirements. Charge of £7.50 per person (cheques to Sherwood Forest Trust). Ring (01623) 821490 to book a place.

- **Other Events of Interest**

- Tuesday evening 13th November, from 7 pm, Wildlife Group meeting featuring talk on dendrochronology (tree-ring dating), at the Bridge Street Methodist Church in Mansfield.
- Also that same evening Friends of Thynghowe's AGM at the Forest Town Welfare.
- Sunday 25th November (10:30am-2:30pm) family event at the Oak Tree Leisure centre, supported by conservation organisations, with creative and inspiring activities such as making fat ball feeders, creature masks, face painting, meet the bats/owls, activity sheets, willow weaving wreaths, etc.
- Thursday evening 29th November, annual FT Christmas Lights switch on celebration.

- **Committee Meeting Agenda Items for 7th November**

- Christmas party
- 2013 Programme – animal sanctuary (visit/talk); walk to be led by Andy will be organised for the end of May/early June; Nigel Slater (asks for donation of £50 per talk, available on Wednesday 13 or 20 March 2013), topics include: Bird Migration; Attenborough Nature reserve; Butterflies and Dragonflies; Gardening for Wildlife; Extinctions, Re-introductions and Aliens; Garden birds and their songs; Iceland; Uganda; and Namibia.
- Rushpool
- Spa Ponds
- Stinting Lane
- Hedge Laying
- Any other business