

Friends of Bishops Wood
Annual report 2015 – 2016



Chair's report June 2016

This has been a very eventful year for staff as changeover to FSC; - not sure yet what impact that will have on Friends' activities, but we look forward to working with them.

Many thanks to all the Friends and committee members for all their hard work and hours of time this year- I think it's remarkable that we have been able to put on so many quality events, mostly with volunteer time, and especially to John for his many many hours of time and enthusiasm.

June

Last year's AGM: followed the **Energy Event**, Woodland room looked good with lots of stalls and interesting people to talk to on energy saving. Committee were elected unopposed, however Rod stood down as Nat. Grid rep.

On Father's day we had the **Svartland Vikings** setting up at Bishops Wood; it was an excellent display, however numbers were low- decided to do it different date next year. Thanks to Sean and staff for organising this event.

July

Outdoor production of **wind in the willows**, produce by Folksy theatre group; cast proved themselves immensely adaptive as the heavens opened and arrangements were hastily made to cram everyone indoors, but luckily by 6.25 the sun came out again, so it was outside again after a small delay to see a performance that I thoroughly enjoyed, in a beautiful evening light.

Later in month this was followed by **Hamlet**, also by Folksy; I didn't see it myself- comments?

September

Following the Vikings earlier in the year we had the Saxon Thegns of Mercia demonstrating Saxon life, along with the young archaeologists from Worcestershire.

October

Spookifest. We decided to hold this on Halloween itself, as this fell on the last Saturday of half term;

This proved not to be so good for numbers- maybe because people had their own events or because they were Halloweened out by then. But a great success in terms of enjoyment of those who came. Thanks to all the staff who helped.

November

The Golden Oak, The Magic of British Trees. This was a wonderful and lively performance from Cat Weatherill, celebrating British woodland at trees with traditional folk tales and wonderful photographs.

December

Christmas event; again very well received by those who attended, many good comments, especially about value for money. Thanks to the many volunteers who helped with all aspects of this now established event.

February

Walk in the Woods It was decided to make this a whole day event as we had such good attendance last year, when several people asked for more time to do all the activities, but disappointingly numbers were well down this year. Weather had been very poor just before, but luckily on the day, it was much better than expected, so the Earthwalks, shelter building and tree trails could all go ahead. Inside the U3A storytellers did an excellent job, as did all the craft helpers- some lovely masks in particular were seen.

March

Easter Tales and trails. This was held on Easter Sunday itself, as it fell right at the beginning of the school holidays; numbers were down a bit, but again we were lucky with the weather, so families had a great time doing trails and inside some fabulous miniature gardens in shoe boxes were produced; thanks to Helen, for providing inspiration and bringing in all the materials including many little treasures.

April

The Forbidden door with the **Devil's Violin company.** An evening of delight- a great storyteller and intriguing music and sound accompaniment. Many new people attending, which widens our audience.

May

Bluebell walk with added **Stories in the Woods** by U3A storytellers and Helen, who were extremely good at their craft. After a low attendance last year, this year we were inundated with about 120 visitors and had to put on 6 walks. Weather was beautiful, many people stayed on picnicking by the pond.

June

Svartland Vikings came and camped up for 2 days over last weekend in glorious weather. Excellent displays and activities, but sadly numbers were low again- perhaps it is just too busy a time of year, or is there something more we could do publicity wise? Everyone who attended seemed really pleased with it with one family coming back on the second day too. Thanks to staff, especially Sean and Gill.

Coming events As you Like It on July 21st and The Smartest Giant in Town on August 11th, both by Folksy.

Catherine Maguire

**Treasurer's report: Friends of Bishops Wood report
Year ending 31st March 2016**

Our bank balance at 31 March 2014 was just under £39700. The balance 1 year later has changed very little - £40054. Unlike the previous year, there were no large grants or legacies, and we have been spending our income from events and membership fees etc. on improvements at the centre.

Events run by the Friends this year have raised £1880 which is down from the year before. Some events, such as Santa's visit were very well supported but some others, such as the Halloween event were disappointing – particularly so when the volunteers and staff have put so much effort in.

If anyone would like to read the detailed figures on events, there are copies on the table. Please help yourself.

- National Grid continued to support the Centre through a grant of £20,000 which the Friends pass over directly to the Centre.
- We currently have 24 family members and 3 individual members (at least 72 people) and we received £290 in subscriptions and small donations. This is lower than a year ago.
- Other income included FIT payments for solar electricity generated £331, bank interest £359 and money back from HMRC for gift aid payments £403

Expenditure:

- During the current year we have passed £2680 to the Centre to help fund the renewal of the Pond Dipping Platforms and for refurbishments of the Saxon Hall.
- We continue to reserve just over £4000 to fund a bursary scheme that we identified after a legacy last year.
- Lastly, we have now a much improved website that has been produced for us by Alex Gwinn

And many thanks to Sheila Brice who has checked the accounts for us.

Graham Simpson

Detailed Accounts 2015 – 2016

Date		ALLOCATION						BANK ACCOUNTS						
		New Building Fund	Saxon Hall	Geoffrey Deane Bursary	Pond Dipping Platform	To be allocated	total	Co-op	Santander	Secure Trust	Cambridge & Counties	Cash		
Opening balance 1/4/15		17,905.85	1,397.22	4,003.45	1,029.78	15,366.50	39,702.80	6,408.04	58.08	23,057.68	10,000.00	179.00		
02-Apr-15	Interest	17,905.85	1,397.22	4,003.45	1,029.78	15,367.11	0.61	39,703.41	6,408.65	58.08	23,057.68	10,000.00	179.00	
16-Apr-15	cash paid in	17,905.85	1,397.22	4,003.45	1,029.78	15,367.11	0.00	39,703.41	6,587.65	58.08	23,057.68	10,000.00	0.00	
27-Apr-15	Whispering Road	transfer	17,905.85	1,397.22	4,003.45	1,029.78	15,416.04	48.93	39,752.34	6,636.58	58.08	23,057.68	10,000.00	
30-Apr-15	Interest CC		17,905.85	1,397.22	4,003.45	1,029.78	15,439.60	23.56	39,775.90	6,636.58	58.08	23,057.68	10,023.56	
05-May-15	Interest Coop		17,905.85	1,397.22	4,003.45	1,029.78	15,440.27	0.67	39,776.57	6,637.25	58.08	23,057.68	10,023.56	
07-May-15	Membership £6	cheque	17,905.85	1,397.22	4,003.45	1,029.78	15,446.27	6	39,782.57	6,643.25	58.08	23,057.68	10,023.56	
10-May-15	Bluebell Walk + 1 membership£8 Bishops Wood Pond Dipping	cash	17,905.85	1,397.22	4,003.45	1,029.78	15,491.27	45	39,827.57	6,688.25	58.08	23,057.68	10,023.56	
12-May-15	1029.78+ Saxon Hall Thatch 1651	cheque	17,905.85	1,397.22	4,003.45	0.00	13,840.27	-2680.78	37,146.79	4,007.47	58.08	23,057.68	10,023.56	
05-Jun-15	Interest		17,905.85	1,397.22	4,003.45	0.00	13,841.03	0.76	37,147.55	4,008.23	58.08	23,057.68	10,023.56	
	Refreshments AGM (before													
16-Jun-15	expenses)	cash	17,905.85	1,397.22	4,003.45	0.00	13,914.53	73.5	37,221.05	4,081.73	58.08	23,057.68	10,023.56	
16-Jun-15	Membership £8 Prest	cheque	17,905.85	1,397.22	4,003.45	0.00	13,922.53	8	37,229.05	4,089.73	58.08	23,057.68	10,023.56	
30-Jun-15	membership £8 Beedie	cash	17,905.85	1,397.22	4,003.45	0.00	13,930.53	8	37,237.05	4,089.73	58.08	23,057.68	10,023.56	8
30-Jun-15	Interest Secure Trust		17,905.85	1,397.22	4,003.45	0.00	14,039.75	109.22	37,346.27	4,089.73	58.08	23,166.90	10,023.56	8
	Wind in the Willows nett													
02-Jul-15	refreshments	cash	17,905.85	1,397.22	4,003.45	0.00	14,071.25	31.5	37,377.77	4,089.73	58.08	23,166.90	10,023.56	39.5
03-Jul-15	Interest		17,905.85	1,397.22	4,003.45	0.00	14,071.54	0.29	37,378.06	4,090.02	58.08	23,166.90	10,023.56	39.5
06-Jul-15	Catherine McGuire AGM expenses	cheque	17,905.85	1,397.22	4,003.45	0.00	14,049.89	-21.65	37,356.41	4,068.37	58.08	23,166.90	10,023.56	39.5
16-Jul-15	Folksy Theatre Wind in the Willows	transfer	17,905.85	1,397.22	4,003.45	0.00	13,811.39	-238.5	37,117.91	3,829.87	58.08	23,166.90	10,023.56	39.5
24-Jul-15	Bar takings Hamlet paid in	cash in	17,905.85	1,397.22	4,003.45	0.00	13,837.64	26.25	37,144.16	3,856.12	58.08	23,166.90	10,023.56	39.5
07-Sep-15	Wind in the Willows cash banked	cash in	17,905.85	1,397.22	4,003.45	0.00	14,386.64	549	37,693.16	4,405.12	58.08	23,166.90	10,023.56	39.5
07-Sep-15	Hamlet cash banked	cash in	17,905.85	1,397.22	4,003.45	0.00	14,469.64	83	37,776.16	4,488.12	58.08	23,166.90	10,023.56	39.5
	Wind in the Willows nett													
07-Sep-15	refreshments	cash in	17,905.85	1,397.22	4,003.45	0.00	14,469.64	0	37,776.16	4,527.62	58.08	23,166.90	10,023.56	
07-Sep-15	Cash paid in Beedie	cash in	17,905.85	1,397.22	4,003.45	0.00	14,469.64	0	37,776.16	4,527.62	58.08	23,166.90	10,023.56	
03-Sep-15	Folksy part payment for Hamlet	cheque	17,905.85	1,397.22	4,003.45	0.00	14,505.14	35.5	37,811.66	4,563.12	58.08	23,166.90	10,023.56	
28-Sep-15	Design costs	cheque	17,905.85	1,397.22	4,003.45	0.00	14,485.14	-20	37,791.66	4,543.12	58.08	23,166.90	10,023.56	
11-Sep-15	gift aid	transfer	17,905.85	1,397.22	4,003.45	0.00	14,888.09	402.95	38,194.61	4,946.07	58.08	23,166.90	10,023.56	
16-Sep-15	FIT	transfer	17,905.85	1,397.22	4,003.45	0.00	15,218.70	330.61	38,525.22	5,276.68	58.08	23,166.90	10,023.56	
	Saxons Return													
23-Sep-15	adm(£93),mems(£86), ref(£77.29)	transfer	17,905.85	1,397.22	4,003.45	0.00	15,474.99	256.29	38,781.51	5,532.97	58.08	23,166.90	10,023.56	
30-Sep-15	Interest	transfer	17,905.85	1,397.22	4,003.45	0.00	15,585.94	110.95	38,892.46	5,532.97	58.08	23,277.85	10,023.56	
16-Nov-15	Spooky Tales(32.50 pd to CM)	cash	17,905.85	1,397.22	4,003.45	0.00	15,733.44	147.5	39,039.96	5,680.47	58.08	23,277.85	10,023.56	
23-Nov-15	Bar Golden Oak	cash	17,905.85	1,397.22	4,003.45	0.00	15,823.74	90.3	39,130.26	5,770.77	58.08	23,277.85	10,023.56	
26-Nov-15	Folksy outstanding cheque	cheque	17,905.85	1,397.22	4,003.45	0.00	15,847.74	24	39,154.26	5,794.77	58.08	23,277.85	10,023.56	
04-Dec-15	Bewdley Stroke talk	transfer	17,905.85	1,397.22	4,003.45	0.00	15,872.74	25	39,179.26	5,819.77	58.08	23,277.85	10,023.56	
14-Dec-15	Santa's tales	transfer	17,905.85	1,397.22	4,003.45	0.00	16,380.82	508.08	39,687.34	6,327.85	58.08	23,277.85	10,023.56	
10-Dec-15	National Grid pt 1	transfer	17,905.85	1,397.22	4,003.45	0.00	26,380.82	10000	49,687.34	16,327.85	58.08	23,277.85	10,023.56	
24-Dec-15	National Grid pt 2	transfer	17,905.85	1,397.22	4,003.45	0.00	36,380.82	10000	59,687.34	26,327.85	58.08	23,277.85	10,023.56	
31-Dec-16	Interest		17,905.85	1,397.22	4,003.45	0.00	36,492.30	111.48	59,798.82	26,327.85	58.08	23,389.33		
05-Jan-16	Interest		17,905.85	1,397.22	4,003.45	0.00	36,492.80	0.5	59,799.32	26,328.35	58.08	23,389.33	10,023.56	
	Membership Cave, Pringle,													
04-Jan-16	Mountjoy)	d/d	17,905.85	1,397.22	4,003.45	0.00	36,528.80	36	59,835.32	26328.35	94.08	23,389.33	10,023.56	
11-Jan-16	NG transfer to B Wood	ch 27	17,905.85	1,397.22	4,003.45	0.00	16,528.80	-20000	39,835.32	6328.35	94.08	23,389.33	10,023.56	
15-Jan-16	Membership Holt	transfer	17,905.85	1,397.22	4,003.45	0.00	16,553.80	25	39,860.32	6353.35	94.08	23,389.33	10,023.56	
05-Feb-16	Interest		17,905.85	1,397.22	4,003.45	0.00	16,554.52	0.72	39,861.04	6354.07	94.08	23,389.33	10,023.56	
08-Feb-16	Into the Woods Feb 7	transfer	17,905.85	1,397.22	4,003.45	0.00	16,700.92	146.4	40,007.44	6500.47	94.08	23,389.33	10,023.56	
10-Feb-16	Alex Gwinn website costs	transfer	17,905.85	1,397.22	4,003.45	0.00	16,505.76	-195.16	39,812.28	6305.31	94.08	23,389.33	10,023.56	
25-Feb-16	Memberships	cheques	17,905.85	1,397.22	4,003.45	0.00	16,519.76	14	39,826.28	6319.31	94.08	23,389.33	10,023.56	
	C Macguire expenses Feb 7		17,905.85	1,397.22	4,003.45	0.00	16,511.76	-8	39,818.28	6311.31	94.08	23,389.33	10,023.56	
	C Macguire membership		17,905.85	1,397.22	4,003.45	0.00	16,519.76	8	39,826.28	6319.31	94.08	23,389.33	10,023.56	
	J Rhymmer membership	transfer	17,905.85	1,397.22	4,003.45	0.00	16,527.76	8	39,834.28	6327.31	94.08	23,389.33	10,023.56	
27-Mar-16	S Brice membership	cash	17,905.85	1,397.22	4,003.45	0.00	16,533.76	6	39,840.28	6333.31	94.08	23,389.33	10,023.56	
27-Mar-16	C Macguire expenses Easter Trails	cash	17,905.85	1,397.22	4,003.45	0.00	16,530.76	-3	39,837.28	6330.31	94.08	23,389.33	10,023.56	
27-Mar-16	G Simpson expenses -stamps	cash	17,905.85	1,397.22	4,003.45	0.00	16,517.80	-12.96	39,824.32	6317.35	94.08	23,389.33	10,023.56	
	Easter trails (door £170, Refresh													
27-Mar-16	£52.5)	cash	17,905.85	1,397.22	4,003.45	0.00	16,740.30	222.5	40,046.82	6539.85	94.08	23,389.33	10,023.56	
30-Mar-16	A Glinn membership	s/o	17,905.85	1,397.22	4,003.45	0.00	16,748.30	8	40,054.82	6539.85	102.08	23,389.33	10,023.56	

Centre Report for 2015 - 2016

2015-16 a year very much taken up with the process of finding new management partners for National Grid to manage the Bishops Wood Centre and site.

5 organisations expressed an interest and submitted proposals for the Centre against criteria set by National Grid and WCC

Criteria and weighting:

- The organisation must be focussed on environmental education
25%
- The organisation gives appropriate consideration to employment & staff issues 15%
- The organisation works with communities, stakeholders and other groups
15%
- The organisation has the ability to manage the 70 acre site
15%
- The organisation has experience of working in a challenging commercial Environment and taking advantage of opportunities to attract and leverage Core funding 30%

4 organisations were invited to clarification meetings and the Field Studies Council were identified as the preferred organisation.

Bishops Wood transferred from Worcestershire County Council to The Field Studies Council on 31st March 2016. All staff were included in the scope of TUPE to FSC.

Having FSC as the new partners will hopefully secure the future for the centre.

Since moving to FSC, we have:

- Achieved the Learning Outside the Classroom badge
- Been assessed for the Quality Badge + scheme and judged very good

The team at Bishops Wood continue to be appreciative of the help and support the Friends give the Centre and continue to look forward in working together to ensure the sustainability of Bishops Wood and its vision.

Gill Frankling, Centre Manager