

Friends of The Hook

Nature has been a great solace this year through the pandemic. The birdsong has seemed even more intense, particularly in lockdown with reduced traffic and aircraft noise. The beautiful spring weather brought people out to walk, cycle and meet friends & The Hook Nature Reserve welcomed many more visitors than usual. Although Covid has meant we've had to cancel our education and social events, Friends of The Hook have still managed to get out on the reserve & continue with conservation activities. We've made sure that paths are accessible & safe by scything/strimming back the encroaching nettles and bramble. At the same time, we've been making space for nature by creating wildlife conservation areas where birds & mammals can feed & breed without disturbance; this has meant blocking off some informal paths which were cutting through important nesting areas. We put up notices, so people understood why, & were really pleased to see people keep to the main paths. If you read the Lady Bay Bird Group report in this newsletter, you'll see the 60 species of birds identified on The Hook. Tremendous news!

Last winter we planted rowan, bird cherry, maple & oak saplings on the north bank of the dyke. Thanks to Annette's regular watering, they are growing well. The riverside planting of trees donated by Rushcliffe Borough Council unfortunately did not do so well, with only 4 surviving. The trees will be replaced, & we will set up a proper programme of care. We will be looking out for people to 'adopt a tree', watering it as necessary through the year & letting us know if it needs attention. If you're interested in becoming a tree guardian, email friendsofthehook@gmail.com. We'll be continuing with our tree planting thanks to a grant of 50 native trees by The Conservation Volunteers. On December 6th we will plant the saplings of hazel, rowan, crab apple, bird cherry and grey willow. If you would like to get involved, contact us by email so we can plan in advance Covid-secure working.

A massive thanks to the Co-op Community Fund and everyone who chose us. We've just had news that the fund has given us £2,946.11 to spend on The Hook. This will enable us to really improve the biodiversity of the area to attract wildlife & create a special place for people.

We have already bought flower seeds and plug plants so that we can start our plan of creating a wildflower walk through the reserve. You'll see patches of cut grass where we have strimmed & raked, strimmed and raked (yes twice over to get through the dense thatch of grass) then sown wildflower seed & plug plants of cowslips. Something to look forward to for the spring.

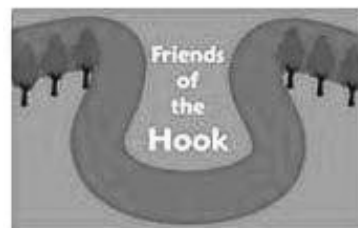
To see pictures of these activities, look on our Facebook page

'Friends of The Hook'.

Jane Browne

Secretary Friends of The Hook

Email: friendsofthehook@gmail.com





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