

THE BEACON HILL SOCIETY

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Minutes of the Meeting on Wednesday, 12th February 2014 at the Waggon and Horses, Douling Beacon

Present: Richard Raynsford (chair), Julian Back (secretary), Peter Banks (treasurer), Paul Newman, Fran Britten, Philip Malcolm

Apologies: Gloria Cawood, Caroline Gentinetta, Jennie O’Kane, Brenda Rogers, Bo Walsh, Mary Newman, Biz Gibbs

1 Minutes of previous meeting 20th November, 2013

The previous minutes were accepted.

2 Matters arising

- Julian & Peter met with pond expert Paul Newman at the wood to investigate the state of the main pond. We thought that the pond could do with clearing as it is gradually getting filled in with leaves etc. But it looks like too big a job for us to attempt on our own. We need to discuss it with the Woodland Trust.

3 Officers reports

Secretary:

- Julian reported that he and Peter met with local poet Sean Borodale at the wood.

Treasurer:

- We now have 21 paid-up members (3 new members since the last meeting, Rick Gledhill, Lisa Williams and Dale Race).
- Our account stands at £1616.59 plus we have just received a £200 grant from Mendip District Council for hedge laying (thanks to District Councillor Gloria Cawood for this grant).
- We have not yet received invoices from Douling School for the autumn visit.
- We are gradually building up a surplus from the Douling School visits. Perhaps this could be used to subsidise visits by other local schools such as Oakhill and Stoke St Michael. Paul Newman mentioned that he had visited Leigh school to look at their pond (it was reputed to contain Great Crested Newts) and he reported that there was little enthusiasm among the teachers for Natural History activities.

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4 Hedge Laying

The hedge laying session on 11th January was enjoyed by all and we had good weather for once. Unfortunately due to a bad weather forecast we cancelled the seconds session on 8th February. In the end the weather was not that bad and we could have gone ahead. Subsequently Alex and his team completed the hedge laying work on their own. This completes the hedge laying for this year. Subsequent to the meeting we visited the wood and looked at the hedge laying, by our estimation at least 100 metres of hedge had been laid. I will be putting some pictures of the hedge laying and the completed hedge on the website in the next few days.

5 Future Events

Litter Pick: this will take place on Saturday, 22nd February from 9.30am on.

A Walk in the Woods: this is an event organised by the Tree Council in May. We could take part in this with a guided walk round the wood.

Summer Picnic and Walk: Fran suggested we have a midsummer picnic in the wood on Saturday, 21st June. Perhaps we could get local schools involved.

Moth Trapping: We are still interested in this but the person who would have run it has now moved to Lyme Regis.

Archaeology Walk: Richard mentioned that Pilton History Society had an archaeological walk round the wood led by Steve Tofts. Richard will ask Steve if he could do a similar walk for the Beacon Hill Society.

Bluebell Trail: We still have the materials for the Bluebell Trail which we did 2 years ago. It would be good to put this up again this year. We are expecting the bluebells to be early this year.

6 AOB

Dog Poo Bins: After finding bags of dog poo in the wood it was suggested that dog poo bins could be installed at the main entrances to the wood. Apparently these are usually paid for by parish councils and emptied by the District Council. Bo and Julian to investigate further.

Membership Leaflet: We only have B&W photocopies of our old membership form/leaflet. Peter Banks offered to design a new leaflet & form.

“Target Store”: Fran reported that the corrugated iron roof of the small building just outside the south of the wood (our theory is that it was used a store for targets by the rifle range) had partially blown off. Maybe we could repair it?

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We decided to take a look at the litter pick.

Car Parking: People often do not make good use of the available car parking space. We wondered if there would be any way to mark out spaces so more cars can fit in.

7 Next Meeting

Wednesday, 9th April 2014, 7.30pm at The Waggon and Horses. Please note subs (£5 per person) will be due at this meeting.

Julian Back (Secretary)

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