

# SHOLING VALLEYS

## NEWSLETTER

September 2017

### SUMMER OF 2017

#### What a busy summer it's been.

For the second year running we were invited to be part of the Children's Discovery Zone at the **NEW FOREST SHOW** for three days in July. Despite the changeable weather the Chair of the Education Committee said that the Discovery Zone was the best it has ever been. We took over 400 pieces of wood that had been coppiced from the Miller's Pond Local Nature Reserve which had been drilled with holes and hooks ready for the children to fill with bird food to take home. We ran out of wood during the afternoon of the last day.



Our thanks must go to our trusty band of volunteers namely Colin, Linda, Terry, Brad, Val, Anne, Bruce, Surrender, Stephen and Pip working very long but enjoyable days. Terry had sessions every day making bird boxes with the children.



A **VALLEY WALK** for 20 people was led by Candy in June and they were each handed a pair of secateurs to help clear the footpaths on the way.



### GREEN OPEN SPACES AWARD

After previously being Highly Commended and coming runners up last year, in 2017 we are the winners of the GOSA Award and was presented with a plaque at the beginning of this month by Cllr Cathie McEwing. We are very proud of this very special award and are very grateful to the members of the general public who nominated us.



We attended the **SUMMER FAYRE AND REGATTA** at Netley also in June but despite the weather being a major improvement on last year, the attendance by stallholders was very poor. However, this proved in our favour as besides our usual produce, we were able to take the bouncy castle and other games as well as disposing of plants left from the Summer Fayre. We therefore had our best ever day at this event.

## BUILDING WORK

At last! After many, many years of fund raising, we have begun the building of the disabled toilets. The photos were taken at the beginning after heavy rain but now the external works are complete. We now have to get them fitted out so there is no let up in fund raising.



We have acquired 4 waste bins from the Council to be erected around the Reserve and also have an eco-bin which the Council will empty when full. Connor installed the first of the bins.



## CONSERVATION WORK DAYS

Work continued through the summer keeping the footpaths and entrances clear of overgrowth as well as a couple of extra days to complete essential maintenance around the Centre and setting up of a third container. We now move into our winter routine and continue on the last Sunday of every month together with Naturewatch.



Candy met recently with the leader of the City Council, Simon Letts, when various issues were discussed including culverts, raised manhole covers, grazing horses and improvements to the Shoreburs Greenway. A follow-up meeting is due to be held later this month.

## EDUCATIONAL GROUPS

Ian Bailey and Tony Hill held Forest Schools groups on 6 days in August which was very popular and successful. The next sessions are due to be held 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> October. Tony took the following photo whilst out on the Reserve.



On two weeks running in July, we had visits from local Rainbows and Cubs groups when it poured with rain. The Cubs had to run for cover during a thunderstorm and the Rainbows were pond dipping so they brought the pond to the Centre!



The Bat Evening scheduled for the 2<sup>nd</sup> August was also a victim of the weather and had to be postponed. It is now being held later this month.

## PUMPKIN FESTIVAL

This is to be held on Saturday, 14<sup>th</sup> October at the Royal Victoria Country Park at Netley. As well as our usual products we will have an amazing number of pumpkins and plants for sale.

## CHRISTMAS!!!!

Please put this in your diaries for Saturday, 2<sup>nd</sup> December. This year it will be held between 11.00 a.m. and 3.00 p.m. at the Study Centre. We plan to have the stalls under cover around the car park and our excellent food inside the building.

*Thanks to Bruce Larner for most of the photos including lost treasure found in the pond!*



SHOLING  
STUDY CENTRE  
VALLEYS

