January 2017  Newsletter 25

Happy New Year

1. What have we been doing?
A lot of work has taken place since our last newsletter and more is planned. The latest Management Plan for the Toton Fields Local Nature Reserve (inc Manor Park) has just been published. The Plan lasts for 5 years (until 2021) and details improvements planned for the reserve including new wildflower areas, creating new wetland features and further projects on the history and archaeology of Toton Fields.
The first improvement activity starts shortly and will focus on rebuilding some key footpaths in the Reserve particularly around the Banks Road/Chester Green area. This project is being part-funded from the £8,000 grant we were awarded from the recent Tesco ‘Bags of Help’ scheme.

2. Projects
Our main project this year is to gather information for our Wildlife in Toton book. Photographs will be taken each month this year to show the changes as they take place. If you have any photos or recollections about Toton, Manor Park or Toton Fields/Toton Sidings in any season, the committee would very much like to see them and maybe include them in the book. Do you have any photos of hedgehogs in your garden?
Please email contributions to gill.morral@ntlworld.com
To add to the scope of the book more Moth surveys are planned for the summer to improve the knowledge on this subject – see below for details of our first survey this year.

3. Events
Due to falling attendance numbers the events for 2017 have been arranged for the Tesco Community room (next to Costa Coffee). They have been arranged for Fridays this year so please support the Friends by supporting as many events as possible.

January 27th  Social event: Bring & share supper, quiz, botany talk, raffle, & good company 7.15 to 9.00pm.
March 19th   Litter Pick: Help us keep the environment good for us and the wildlife. 10.00am
March 31st  Spring talk: Tony Maggs and bees. Tony runs the ‘Honey Pot’ business in Long Eaton and came to our Michaelmas Fair where he was constantly surrounded. Tony plans to bring an observation hive and some honey related items to sell.  (Tony is wearing black)
May 19th   A.G.M. (speaker tbc)
May 27th   Saturday evening: 1st Moth survey

4. Volunteers needed..
..to put up bird boxes in 2017. Observations of the state of the present bird boxes are also needed. Any sightings or observations of birds, butterflies etc would also be very useful to add to the our records of the ecology of the area.

5. History - documentary research is still continuing.
The latest research includes runaway serfs who made it to London in 1389. The brother of the escapees had to pay a fine. I am going to attend a tutorial in reading medieval Latin and the accompanying abbreviations. If you know of anyone who would like to join me, please let me know.

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