

Friends of Lye Valley

Inaugural Annual General Meeting of the Friends of Lye Valley Wed 14 August St Francis' Church Hall, Hollow Way, Oxford OX3 7 JF

Present: Terry Wood (Acting Chair), Judy Webb, Keith Frayn, Heather Armitage (minutes) and 27 others.

Agenda

Introduction by Terry Wood: the reasons for the formation of The Friends of Lye Valley (FOLV): to protect, conserve and enhance the wildlife of the Lye Valley.

The Lye Valley

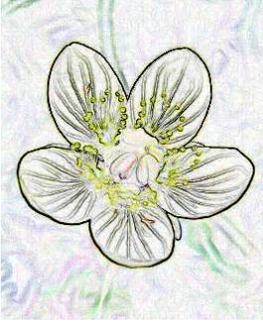
Dr Judy Webb gave brief presentation of the wildlife of the Lye Valley and future threats and gave a summary of the history of this ancient wetland, mentioning the diverse plants and rare invertebrates including glow-worms.

The Lye Valley contains 20 flowers rare in the whole of Oxfordshire – for example Grass of Parnassus can be found in only 3 sites and is declining. Since the 1990s many species have been lost eg butterwort (1994) and sundew. Yet butterwort was found here a long ago as 1640.

The tufa formation is rare internationally; the southern marsh orchid is rare, as is the tiny bog pimpernel which has been exterminated in 14 counties.

Special water is needed by the fen – rainwater which has fallen on the grass and seeped gradually through the limestone to emerge as wet patches or springs in the valley. Marsh helleborines (rare nationally) in particular need this unique water. Rare invertebrates include the waterpenny beetle (Red Databook 3) and the brown hairstreak butterfly.

Invasive weeds include balsam and the notifiable Japanese Knotweed.



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Hydrological issues include the problem of flash flooding down a Thames Water drain, which erodes the stream banks and causes the fens to dehydrate, sewage leaks, chemical pollution and the continual building/development on the rainwater catchment area of the fen, including the proposed development no 13/01555/CT3 land adjacent to Warren Crescent.

The Proposed Constitution

Terry Wood presented the proposed Constitution (attached) which was accepted:

Proposed by Keith Frayn

Seconded by Catherine Gundry

Overwhelmingly accepted by those present.

Election of Chair: Judy Webb was proposed by Terry Wood, seconded by Keith Frayn and was overwhelmingly supported by those present.

Election of Treasurer: Terry Wood was proposed by Keith Frayn and seconded by Heather Armitage. There was overwhelming support from those present.

Election of Secretary. Catherine Gundry was proposed by Janet Stansfield and seconded by Terry Wood. There was overwhelming support from those present.

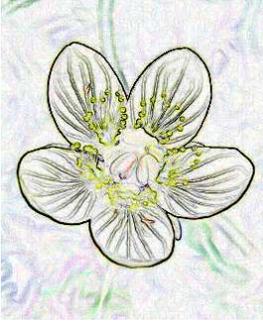
Website

The meeting officially thanked Stephanie Jenkins for her assistance and support in providing the Friends of Lye Valley website.

The Chair asked for other volunteers to serve on the Committee and provide assistance.

The following Members offered:

Steve Woolliams, Sarah Bubb, Jane Alexander



Friends of Lye Valley

Annual Membership Fees

After some discussion the following were overwhelmingly agreed by the meeting:

£5 individual membership

£7 family membership

nil unwaged

Group membership £10

Julie Lambert asked if the FOLV would be seeking grants.

Pete Watson asked what kind of insurance would be necessary. Terry Wood replied that Public Liability Insurance would be needed for work parties. Oxford City Council will cover insurance for work on the North Fen.

Warren Crescent Planning Application

Judy Webb briefly explained the threats to the SSSIs posed by this development: there would be no buffer between the housing and the SSSI; green space suitable for informal play would be lost to residents; the houses would be built on the rainwater catchment of the fen; the proposed mitigation measures would be unworkable in the long term.

Terry Wood suggested that all FOLV Members should both contact their own councillor and also all the councillors who serve on the East Area Planning Committee to put their case against the Warren Crescent development.

Judy also explained that there are huge developments planned at the Churchill site which will also impact on the fens.

The meeting closed at 9.00pm