

# **Chair's Annual Report for The Friends of Hollinswood and Randlay Valley**

## **May 2020 to April 2021**

The initial outcome of the pandemic raised concerns / issues in that could the Friends continue with their work within Randlay Valley. After a while, it became apparent that if it were only a small group of volunteers and working at a safe distance, which is achievable within the valley, we could continue.

From time to time, I continued to mow the path edges etc. within the valley along with helping in and around the Woodland School. I wish to thank our Environmental Officer and the team of volunteers for their excellent work in constructing the Woodland School along with work undertaken by Telford Woods.

In addition, our Environmental Officer started a project to 'uncover' the former mineral line track that is adjacent to the school. The first time I took my metal detector to see if any items could be found on the so far uncovered area it went wild – it was then pointed out 'are you wearing safety boots' – which I was. That said items have been found and that the rail bed is made up of slag which no doubt came from, what is now Telford Town Park. I would also like to thank the Environmental Officer and Volunteers for the work they have achieved on clearing more of the track and providing a link to the main path creating a circular route.

Sadly, there has been a downside to the work undertaken at the Woodland School by individuals using the school as a 'drinking' den and possible other uses. One notable issue was that a large fire was lit in the fire pit using wood stored to be used in the future to produce charcoal – subject to permission.

One good outcome is that the valley is now being used more by the public and interest has been shown by organisations and groups i.e., local school and Scout groups etc.

I would also like to thank our Events Officer who organized an Easter Event which eventually went well due to initial 'vandalism' to the posters. The event was enjoyed by all who partook.

Meetings that we had where via Zoom.

I would like to thank all the committee members, volunteers and a special thankyou to our Parish Clerk and our Landscape Maintenance Team.

We will continue to meet on the first Tuesday of the month, observing current guidance and hopefully other times, mutually agreeable.

*Chris Turley*

Chair of The Friends of Hollinswood and Randlay Valley

19<sup>th</sup> April 2021