

## Friends of Pelaw Wood Annual General Meeting

12:30pm, Sunday 5th February 2017  
The Queen's Head, Sherburn Road.

Present: Tony Ewin, Barrie Evans, Sarah Wheeler, Milja Spruit, Richard Lilly, David Crutcher, Mike Flood, Clive Hole, Jenny Lee, Anne Quigley, Meg Pomfret  
Apologies: Carole and Peter Lattin, Roger McAdam

### Chairman's Welcome

Tony welcomed everyone and thanked them for their work in the woods and in honorary positions during the last year. Neil Lownes, who wasn't present, was mentioned as someone who attends every month and puts a great deal of effort into every task.

### Secretary's Report

Sarah gave out copies of the report summarising the activities of the group during the year. This led into some discussions about the year ahead, which are summarised in the Work Programme item below.

### Treasurer's Report

Mike presented his report to all. It was agreed that some of the funds will be used to purchase a wheelbarrow to replace the one with flat tyres.

### Election to Honorary Positions

All existing holders were re-elected, and David Crutcher agreed to take on the additional role of Publicity Coordinator

Chairman - Tony Ewin  
Treasurer - Mike Flood  
Secretary - Sarah Wheeler  
Auditor - Richard Lilly  
Publicity Coordinator - David Crutcher  
Website Manager - David Crutcher

### Work Programme for 2017

- Update the existing management plan for the wood, which is now out of date
- Make nest boxes for birds, particularly owls
- Put up the remaining bat boxes
- Prepare for the path reopening
- Consider what to do (or not do) following the Northumbrian Water works under the silverlink bridge

- Himalayan Balsam Pulling, possibly including some evening sessions
- Bracken trampling
- Contact Durham Bird Club to see how we might work together
- Host a Dawn Chorus Walk
- Host a moth evening
- Host a bat walk
- Lead a New Year Walk

### Any other business

#### How to attract new volunteers

- Clive suggested that an article in the Durham Times may be of interest with regard to getting help from university students
- Meg made the point that we should ensure that we make people aware that membership of the group is free
- Anne suggested that we might be able to get extra help by hosting corporate team building days for local businesses, e.g. balsam pulling
- Delivering leaflets to properties close to the wood could attract new volunteers.

#### Updating the management plan

- Clive brought a document detailing some of his observations and suggestions with regard to the flora of the wood, which will be helpful when we look at the plan
- Tony requested that people interesting in helping to update the plan volunteer to do so. Sarah will circulate the plan and ask for interest then.
- There was some discussion about ivy and whether it has a negative effect on trees - we need to check this

### ACTIONS

Sarah to locate and circulate the old management plan for members to examine

Sarah to request expressions of interest for helping with the management plan update, so that Tony can lead this

Sarah to find out from the council what the plan is for the middle path, to see if we can help with that, and also to ask about whether we could do any tree/shrub planting on the landslip site to help hold the soil together.

Milja to contact Durham Bird Group and to host a dawn chorus walk in April/May

Tony to contact Dave Wainwright re a moth evening

Sarah to contact the bat group about another bat walk (possibly late summer)

Dave and Milja to deliver leaflets to nearby properties promoting the group

Anne and Jenny to work together to organise some evening balsam pulling sessions

Tony to find a suitable wheelbarrow to purchase