

## FODW AGM

### Chair's annual report

#### Membership

Currently we have six volunteer members, Jim Inkster joined during the year. Five of the volunteers are committee members: Sonia and Angela plus Nick as Chair, Adrian as Secretary and Ken as Quartermaster. Jim has said he would like to join the committee.

#### Training

Jim has done his First Aid +Forestry training (funded by FFF and LCTC) and is waiting to do his Medium Trees felling (75% funded by FFF).

Nick and Ken have done the LANTRA Basic Tree Survey & Inspection course (held at Llanfair Institute and Deri Woods and funded by MWT). Robert Robinson LCTC Town Clerk also attended.

#### Key events

- The Handy dumper had a replacement gear box
- The Pump House had the mural painted and this seems to have deterred further graffiti. The picnic bench that Sonia and Angela sanded and stained has also not been graffitied since
- 12 Bat boxes made (and 6 put up so far) also checked the bat loft to see if it is being used. Answer was 'no' but we were able to confirm that, when constructed, a structure had been put inside that should be suitable for use by lesser horseshoe bats
- Series of successful LWT funded events took place: bat and moth public event; river dipping event; small mammal trapping; and the tree survey course already mentioned
- Nick presented a paper to a LCTC Meeting to encourage the council to undertake more thinning work in Deri Woods. The Council adopted the 2016 woodland restoration plan and agreed, in the first instance, to undertake thinning of three woodland compartments. The trees to be thinned have been marked, a Felling Licence has been applied for (to NRW) and a (relatively poorly attended) public walk-around to explain the plan has taken place. The Felling Licence was approved on 9 December
- Funding to create a wildflower meadow was applied for and secured from Tirgwynt Community Fund. TCF would not grant fund the VAT element, this was funded by LCTC. We undertook the work over two of our autumn work days

- In addition to that, we have undertaken a range of maintenance tasks at the remainder of our monthly workdays including repairs of the wooden structures, sweeping, cutting back of vegetation, small tree felling and other bits and pieces as required. Volunteers have also attended for a few hours, between work days when needed, to clear fallen trees and to prepare the Gorsedd Stones grass for the meadow works
- MWT had a small amount of funding remaining from their Green Connections project and has bought us a few additional tools

### Next year

Having received the Felling Licence sooner than we might have expected, my hope is that LCTC will now commission the thinning work to take place before the spring.

We now wait to see what appears in the Gorsedd Stones meadow in the spring. I received two species of annual seeds after our planting day, Jim and I raked a few of the leaves away and broadcast these last month. I also kept a few at home which I have sewn in a seed plug tray to see if we can grow our own plant plugs. Ken has also done the same with some free cornflower seeds that came from elsewhere. So hopefully we will need to do a little bit more planting in the spring.

We have a work plan for 2023 which we will use to guide us through the year, no doubt other things will come up as the year progresses.

### Thank you

My thanks to all the volunteers for their work and company and to Ken and Adrian for their support in running our small group. And to our partners LCTC and MWT. And this year, to Tirgwynt Community Fund, FFF and Llais y Goedwig for their support. I hope all have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year