

The Slade Nature Reserve – Report to Bloxham Parish Council

01/07/19

Recent Activities

During 2019 the Slade volunteers have completed the following tasks:

- Began the pollarding rotation of willow trees along willow walk. One tree each year will now be pollarded. This will increase the diversity of habitat through different levels of growth. The offcuts also create deadwood habitat piles as well as den building material for Bloxham Family Funday.
- Tool maintenance session with Duke of Edinburgh volunteers.
- Litter picking by D of E volunteers on a weekly basis.
- Upgraded steps at the end of the railway. Added wood to the edge and topped with gravel.
- Cleared vegetation from pathways along willow walk (avoiding common spotted orchids). Cleared and stacked fallen tree from entrance to meadow.

Community Involvement

- 4 Duke of Edinburgh volunteers from the village have been involved with work parties, tool maintenance and litter picking.
- Wild About Bloxham club tentatively launched by Warriner School Farm. Small mammal survey and stream dipping events have been held at The Slade. Thanks to Natalie Warlow for volunteering to help.
- Bloxham Primary School are currently training a member of staff as a Forest School Leader and her intention is to use The Slade regularly as a resource. The training sessions were held at The Slade.
- Bloxham School are planning to send 20 students to The Slade on 27th June to perform a freshwater survey and clear vegetation from pathways. I have been liaising with Robert Hudson and we hope to make this a regular arrangement.
- Attended Bloxham Family Funday and ran a den building activity. The aim was to increase awareness and encourage more villagers to volunteer. We recruited 1 new volunteer and encouraged many villagers to take a walk around the reserve.

2019 Planning

- The annual meadow cut event date has been set for Sunday 21st July.
- Plan 1st Bloxham Scouts community project at The Slade.
- Santa at The Slade event with 1st Bloxham Scouts.

Planned expenditure:

- Gravel for steps.
- Replacement timber to maintain boardwalk.