



Spring Newsletter Issue No.1

SPRING 2021

We would like to update you on the developments of the Friends of the Rea Brook Valley LNR (FORBVLNR) to be known more in formerly as **Rea Brook Wonders**

WEBSITE

We are delighted to announce our new Website is up and running. It has been a challenging year to set up a new community group, with meetings limited to online. We are currently a small friendly team of volunteers and we would welcome new members. It would help the energy of the group and keep the momentum moving forward. Please do sign up to joining our group to receive Newsletters and further information on the groups' activities. There are opportunities here to offer a donation to support our work, and your time is also gratefully appreciated. <https://www.reabrookwonders.co.uk>

FUNDING NEWS

A huge effort, by a small team, was put into the funding application to Severn Trent for their Community Fund, based around well-being. The competition was very stiff and unfortunately, we weren't successful this time. Here are the reviewer's comments from Severn Trent....

'The application showed some great benefits that the project could bring to the community. However, the project's sustainability is not as strong as other applications that we received of a similar size and nature.'

'We're receiving a huge volume of applications to the Fund; since we opened the Fund in January 2020 we have already received over 27 million pounds worth of project applications. With £10 million to donate over the next five years, whilst we'd love to, unfortunately we simply can't approve every project for funding.'

Funding received to date:

- £158 - Piano Installation and removal
- £450 - Website set up
- £1,000 - Anonymous donation (set up costs)

LITTER PICKING

Our wonderful volunteer litter-picking co-ordinator Daisy Mae Harris has now moved back to Cornwall. We wish her all the very best in new ventures. ‘Thank you, Daisy for stepping into this role and inspiring an active team of litter-pickers along the Rea Brook.’

Daisy would love to see the regular group litter picking continue and has made a few lovely videos telling us about her role. This could be one individual or a small team of friends working together.

PIANO PROJECT REPORT

The Rea Brook Piano was a fun pop-up temporary installation in the run up to Christmas, to cheer up passers-by during a wintery lockdown. It was well received with plenty of online discussions, photos and videos shared. The installation was supported by Shrewsbury Town’s Countryside Manager and financially supported by Belle Vue councillor Kate Halliday’s Councilor’s Fund.

It was agreed to be removed if any sign of damage and with the floods arriving early this winter, the piano was removed to a safer place. We hope to install another piano in late spring so it can be enjoyed by more people over the summer months. Meanwhile we are considering a mural being painted of the piano on the wall where it was, as a memory to this project.

GROUP WALK

Once Covid restrictions are opened up in late May (allowing up to 30 people meeting outdoors) we hope to organise a walk. This could be followed up by a drink at the Brooklands Hotel who have kindly offered their support to the group by allowing meetings to take place there.

NEWS FLASH ****Collaboration with Belle Vue Arts Festival (BVAF)

This summer we’ve been invited to join up with the successful and well-established BVAF. We will jointly deliver along the Rea Brook: a treasure hunt, a photographic competition, and a day of events and workshops at the end of July. This will include a clay workshop along the riverbank, river dipping, and a ‘Busk under the Bridge.’

JOIN US

Sign up via our website to be kept up to date of news and projects. If you have any ideas or suggestions let us know.

With Best Wishes

Ruth and Jude

Rea Brook Wonders