

Sutton Environment & History Group

Wednesday 9th Sep 2015
Meetings notes

Rick, Judy, Ann, Les, Allen.

We raised a glass of Chase Vodka to our friend Liz

1. Actions from Last meeting

Litter Picks Judy contacted Parish Clerk about getting a set of pickers and bin liner hoops.

River dipping event Rick designed leaflet, Judy printed and all distributed

2. Finance report by Allen. Current balance **£90.01**

River Dipping: Balance: £10. Income £35, Costs £10 room, £15 for Mary's petrol etc.

3. Events

River dipping on 20th June was very successful, with 23 people attending. Interesting results, the range of species recovered was encouraging as it places the River Lugg somewhere in the middle in terms of water cleanliness. See report in appendix.

4. Forthcoming events

- 19th September 2015. In The Woods. Tree identification and walk with Mary Roberts. To be up at Sutton Walls, then activities in Village Hall. Meet at Village Hall and walk or drive to Ordish Cottages to start walk from there. Rick and Les not available. Allen - to make sausage rolls and cookies, Anne - milk & squash, Judy - tea, coffee and sugar. Allen refreshments in hall, Judy to go on walk help organise
- Thursday 20th January 2016. History of the Hereford Canal talk Nigel Jeffries.
Action: Rick to design a flyer before Xmas, send to Judy to print and distribute.
- Saturday 19th June 2016. Walk on the Canal route from Withington into Sutton. This ending or starting in the Cross Keys pub.
- Autumn 2016 Talk on Saxon and Medieval Sutton, by Tim Hoverd, and follow it up with an archaeology walk some time later?
Action: Judy to ask Tim
- Archives – A joint visit with Moreton and Marden History groups to see the Marden enclosure map at the new archives building HARC
- **Action:** Judy to ask Archives
- Renewable Energy Day, to be postponed for another year - Rick
- Litter Picks.
Action: Les to organise with Tony Ford (Parish Clerk) preferably for Sun 15th Nov or Sat 28th Nov, if the equipment has been obtained by the Parish Council.

5. Update on Community Plan activities:

- Neighbourhood Watch. Ann will draft an email to send to those who expressed an interest in Neighbourhood Watch, which will explain they can set up their own NW

group within their locality and to let Ann know if they are still interested and provide their locality/address. This information also to be put into Sutton News & onto Website. We can then put them in touch with each other, to take forward.

Action: Ann still to draft letter to send round to steering group for comment, then email out to list.

- World War 1 project. Not easy to progress. Many other people doing research in this area. Re-visit in a year, as more information may be available and easy to access
 - Dog fouling. Notices are being put up by Parish Council
6. Next meetings: Twice a year in the Autumn and Spring, first Wednesday of the month, usually 7.30-9.00pm. Next meeting to be arranged.

APPENDIX 1



River Dipping in the Lugg

On a warm and humid Saturday June 20th, twenty-three people gathered on the north bank of the River Lugg just along from Wergin's Bridge, walking through a field of hay brimming with damselflies, for a spot of river dipping.

Mary Roberts, who lead the group, provided nets, trays and insect specimen pots loaned by the Nature Trust. Seven family groups swooshed their nets in the river to see what they could fish out and put in trays for identifying.

A range of eleven different species were discovered:

Water scorpion, bullhead fish, water bug, pond skater, water boatman, leech, snail, fresh water mussel, fresh water shrimp, damselfly larva, swimming mayfly nymph.

The range of species is encouraging as it puts the river somewhere in the middle in terms of water cleanliness. Fresh water shrimp, mayfly nymph and damselfly larva will only survive low levels of pollution, whilst the other species will tolerate some pollution but cannot survive really dirt water.

The River Lugg suffered in the past by increased intensity in agriculture and changes in water management, which affected the water purity. Improved land management practices has a positive impact on the ability of smaller creatures and plants to survive and thrive in the river. This in turn encourages increased numbers of larger creatures back to the river.

Following the enjoyable river dipping activity, everyone made their way back to the Village Hall for craft activities. The children, and the adults, made an array of colourful tissue paper fish, transparent coloured dragonflies on sticks and hopping paper frogs. The craft activities were as much fun as much as the dipping, and were enhanced by some excellent freshly baked biscuits!

A big vote of thanks goes to Mary Roberts who created such a successful and enjoyable day, and to Islwyn Williams who allowed access to his lovely hayfield by the river.