



Friends of Gilcrest Wood and Meadow

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 7th June 2025

1. Welcome and Apologies

Present: Teo Greenstreet (Chair) Richard McQuinn (Treasurer) and John White, Tim and Matt Coster. Apologies: Simon Falshaw

2. Minutes and matters arising from previous AGM

The minutes of the 2022/24 AGM were notes as circulated on the web site.

3. Treasurers Report Proposed by Richard McQuinn

(Presented by Richard and accepted by Teo)

Richard explained that there had been little movement in funds with an opening balance of £1484 and a closing balance of £1325 at April 2025. Costs relate to web site and flier printing.

4. Election of New Management Committee

Invitation to join the committee was made at the meeting on the flier and web site, through email to fogwam@gmail.com. Teo Greenstreet (Chair) Richard McQuinn (Treasurer) and John White agreed to be re-elected to the committee.

5. Site review and Chairs Report by Teo Greenstreet for the period Jan 2024 – April 2025

1. Workdays

Workdays took place on the following days:
2024

- Sunday 18th February 2024
- Saturday 13th April 2024
- Sunday 9th June 2024
- Sunday Sept 1st
- Saturday Nov 23rd
- Sunday Dec 15th Jolly Holly
- Sunday Jan 19th 2025
- Saturday Feb 15th 2025
- Sunday 13th April 2025

Attendance numbers have been stable of between 4 and 8 people and occasionally larger groups. Fliers were distributed in March 2024 and January 2025.

2. Activity

Path laying and Picnic

We celebrated 10 years of caring for Gilcrest Wood and Meadow with Woodchip relaying of the path and a bring your own picnic. Lovely to share that together with 25 folks, a mix of old and new participants and a lot of wheel barrow action.

Jolly Holly has continued to be popular. December 2024 was another wet and credit to the wreath makers who stuck with it – 10 wreaths made and wreath making material left out for others to take away.

The meadow was cut and we continue its development as a wild meadow. Less siting of Yellow rattle were made – a sign meadow development maybe slowing up.

Bluebell monitoring continues with images of 2024 bluebell spread showing take up of areas where holly has been cleared.

Work continued on clearing the glade area near to the top path clearing much holly of different sizes and allowing the more ancient Hawthorns to grow back and revealed a number of small Yews.

Gulley work undertaken to the spring on the nursery steps, though the spring now seems to have moved again.

The top path bridge and two bollards have been replaced.

The desire line path half way up the steps has been blocked to discourage a through route. Started removal of invasive species of large leaf / American woodhaven.

3. Matters arising/still being considered:

- a. Gaining Local Wildlife status was discussed and agreed as a realistic goal. Noted this does not bring statutory right, unlike a local nature reserve, but enable Matt to ensure ranger support.
- b. Mowing regime: annual mow with additional mow for the amenity land at top. Noted this to include the wet area and area under the oak.
- c. The large holly beyond the fruit trees is dying back and we continue to monitor.
- d. Noted plum tree seems to have survived disease
- e. Pond excavation project still a possibility. Matt now passed his excavator test. Copice the large v old hazel to allow more light.
- f. If nursery stream starts again we can create a bunding (raised crescent mound) to catch ephemeral water.
- g. Noted bat monitoring, bird surveying sightings of tawny owl chicks and deer.
- h. Noted cherry laurel returing across site – to be cleared particularly under the oak at the top of the field.
- i. Meadow making. Change of strategy to planting plug plants for a wet meadow: fundriase for or use our funds. Note other wet meadow species: Lesser spearwort, mouse ear chick weed and plantain.
- j. At the bluebell area noted the success of the holly cut back. Need to clear bramble and cut back holly at top of bluebell area
- k. Consider succession planning for oaks

- l. Noted need to clear the bird boxes this autumn
- m. May need to clear some tree canopy from blueberry and heath area
- n. Noted rubble dumping at the rear of 43 Canterbury crescent and impact of old hawthorn through soil impacting. Also dumping of chippings and disguising of rubble dump.
- o. Continue to monitor protected trees on the boundary to new development – particularly for limbs being removed. Teo reminded people that should anyone spot a tree being taken down near the top path the TPO map is on the web site and can be used to check against.
- p. Top path glade to consider removing more holly trees for light access
- q. Bottom of nursery steps removal of 3 cornered leak – an invasive species.

As ever our appreciation goes to Sheffield City Council rangers, particularly to Matt Coster
Teo Greenstreet, chair June 2025.