



Friends of Gilcrest Wood and Meadow

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 7th June 2026

1. Welcome and Apologies

Present: Teo Greenstreet (Chair) Richard McQuinn (Treasurer) and John White, Simon Falshaw and John Dallow, Manager woodlands and Countryside for SCC Apologies: Fran.

2. Minutes and matters arising from previous AGM

The minutes of the 2024/5 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 £1325 and a closing balance of £1130 at April 2026. Costs relate to web site and flier printing and plug plants.

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@gmial.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 April 2025 – April 26

5.1 Workdays

Workdays took place on the following days:

2025

- Sunday 13th April
- Saturday 7th June Site review/walking AGM
- Sunday 31st August
- Sunday 26th October
- Saturday 22nd November
- Sunday 14th December Jolly Holly wreath making

2026

- Sunday 15th February

- Saturday 11th April

7 workdays plus Jolly Holly with attendance numbers have been stable of between 4 and 8 people and occasionally larger groups. Fliers were distributed in November 2025.

5.2 Activity

- Following last year's gully work undertaken to the spring on the nursery steps, the spring has moved again. Attempts to redirect this have been made and being monitored and to be reviewed on site review.
- Major activity in the year was preparation for and creation of the wetland pond. Matt's digging action was put completely to the test, and all worked out in the end. The water from the occasional brook seems to be being retained and monitoring for leaks continues. "and last time I visited there seemed to the start of permanent life appearing in it, both flora and fauna."
- Jolly Holly has continued to be popular, 14 participants at December 2025 event and 15 wreaths made and wreath making material left out for others to take away.
- Bird box checking and replacement: only 2 boxes occupied and 8 boxes no longer fit for purpose and removed. A new bird box plan was considered with intention of providing boxes for a broader range of birds including owls, Jackdaws and sparrows as well as bats.
- Repairs to the step revetments were made – the steps are now over 10 years old.
 - We've pivoted from a lot of woodland work previously (glade creation, holly removal) to be more meadow focused this year. With the changes in the hydrology, we've introduced different machines in the middle very wet areas and raking as a means to remove.
 - We also planted 400 native wet meadow plants in this area, which are hopefully going to be fully out in summer 2027. Yarrow, Common Knapweed, Meadowsweet, Oxeye daisy, Birdfoot triflower, Cowslip, Betony. We've continued with the cut and collect management elsewhere as well as ensuring an amenity area is cut more frequently at the top of the meadow.
 - We also started the programme of invasive aven removal (more of that below).

5.3 Matters arising/still being considered:

New items from site tour

- a. From Matt: In terms of aspirations, Jon and I have spoken about more substantial plans around the pond area and further tree thinning elsewhere.
- b. From John: need to consider site as part of Prter Valley masterplan: requires a Management plan using a template that Matt can work on and based on what doing already. Can then release potential training, access to tools, insurance. Also suggested working with local schools for any needed projects.
- c. Noted ragged robin and yellow rattle and milk Maid indicating meadow progress.
- d. Laurel behind 4 and 6 Castlewood road requiring attention from tree officer. John to follow up. TG to email hm
- e. Need to promote variety and age profile in bluebell area and further down through felling and continued Holly/ Laurel removal.
- f. Noted damage to sub soils and disturbance near Badger sett caused by bike ramp construction. Note of guidance: don't confront young people about this, just explain this impact and advise go to Bole hill. Note need to block the desire line.

- g. Sivil developments on Canterbury: remains items on waste land. John to check with planning if any outstanding compliance.
- h. Noted that rings of Holly trees are now being considered almost an indicator of ancient woodland and certainly significant. The ring be caused by continual feeding effectively coppicing it.
- i. Nursery drainage: needs further investigation and potential soak away/ secondary pond.

Previous items:

- j. Gaining Local Wildlife status to enable Matt to ensure ranger support. Matt to update.
- k. May need to clear some tree canopy from blueberry and heath area
- l. 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.
- m. Top path glade to consider removing more holly trees for light access

6. Thankyou

Personal thanks from Matt to everyone for their time and effort; we wouldn't get the work done without them. As ever our appreciation goes to Sheffield City Council rangers, particularly to Matt Coster
Teo Greenstreet, chair June 2026.