



Fernwood

fanfare

<http://www.fernwoodra.com>

News and Events brought to you by Fernwood Parish Council and Fernwood Residents' Association

Autumn 2012

Fernwood Wildlife



Spider in the Meadow



Meadow Brown Butterfly



Brown-lipped snails



Fungus on the Turkey Oak



Common Mallow

Deadline for Winter Issue

Friday 15 November

Send copy to the Editor:
meril.popple@btinternet.com
17 Cameron Lane

Welcome to another packed edition of Fanfare.

Each quarter I struggle with the volume of material which hits my Inbox for inclusion in the newsletter. I'm not complaining - it's good, and I enjoy reading your news and shuffling things around to try to include as much as possible.

It is strange how the articles which come in seem to be themed. We've had village groups, fitness, sports and this time we have nature and conservation. It isn't planned - just the way the articles arrive!

We have a report from the Conservation Group, an article on hedgehogs from a resident, a piece from the new Gardening Group and the Youth Page is on nature watch.

You may have noticed the Turkey Oak near the tennis courts has been invaded with a strange-looking fungus.

Mark Speck, of the Notts Wildlife Trust, and his colleagues have inspected it, taken samples, and included me in many emails back and forth. I have learned quite a bit about fungus! We feared that we may have to lose the tree (which would be a

great shame) if the fungus was damaging or likely to spread. Fortunately we don't need to fell the tree. It will take many years before the fungus seriously affects the tree.

On page 2 and 3 there is a report from our new school and one from the Petanque Club.

On page 4-5 you will find reports from the Parish Council.. One is a short article on why we need a Parish Council and what they do for us and an article about litter and anti-social behaviour.

As usual, there is also a letter from the Chairman of the Residents' Association.

Please do respond if you have views on these or any other subject. Both the Parish Council and the Residents' Association will be pleased to hear from you. Unless you let them know your views and problems they cannot help you.

If you have any comments or views you would like including in the Fanfare, or on the website, please write to me.

Merilynne Popple (Editor)

Letter from Canon Tucker—St Giles Church, Balderton

It really is encouraging to see the school arriving at last in Fernwood, an event that has been looked forward to by so many people for many years.

New premises have opened alongside the village hall and I even heard someone mention somewhere that we need to build a church. Of course this is a wonderful suggestion but I wonder how realistic it really is. It is perhaps worth reminding ourselves that a church is never simply a building, but rather a community of people committed to the service of God in the community that they serve. In essence it is all about people.

Relationships are the heart of what community is about. Many years ago I can remember my father saying that it is not what you know

but who you know that matters in this world. He spoke from his perspective of somebody who had travelled through the Second World War as a young man and seen so many people damaged by human cruelty.

Of course it is a relationship that lies at the heart of the Christian faith, people seeking to respond to the love that is revealed to them by God in the lives of those who trust Him. It sounds old - fashioned, indeed it is, to say that we need to be prepared to travel the extra mile, to go further than we are obliged to go in order to support the people around us. Or, to put it in the words of an old prayer, to prefer the needs of others to our own.

As we work together to build community, which of course is

what we are doing in the village of Fernwood, taking the opportunity to participate in community activities of varying sorts all helps to build up our relationships with one another. In building this community we need to be realistic about our objectives. I am well aware that the members of today's thriving communities are standing on the shoulders of those who went before them, faithfully preparing the way, and in many ways we see this pattern being played out as we see Fernwood develop.

I want to assure you all of my support and look forward to working with you as we travel the extra miles together.

Canon Tony Tucker



Red Clover *Trifolium repens* (F)



Lady's Bedstraw *Galium verum* (F)



Creeping Thistle *Cirsium arvense* (O)



Bristly Ox-Tongue *Picris echioides* (R)



Goatsbeard *Tragopogon pratensis* (R)



Lesser Stitchwort *Stellaria graminea*(O)



Cocks Foot *Dactylis glomerata* (A)



The fourth of September saw an historical start of school for 39 Fernwood children. They spent their first day at the new Fernwood site of Chuter Ede Primary School.

There are two classrooms, a hall and outdoor play areas.

The school is led by Mr Bob Hattersley with Mrs Brenda Taylor overseeing the day to day running of the school.

The school is a great asset to the Fernwood village and it is hoped it will become the centre of the community.

It is also part of the Growth Point development within the Newark

area, with the potential for a total of 420 children to be educated there.

It also means that, unusually, Chuter Ede now has spaces for Foundation and Year 1 children at the Fernwood site, both from within and outside of the catchment area.

Bob Hattersley
(Head, Chuter Ede School)

FRA Open Meeting

An open meeting of FRA was held at the new Village School on 11 September, attended by members of the Association's committee, 27 members of the public and visiting guests including, Mr Bob Hattersley, Head of Chuter Ede School, Mrs Brenda Taylor, Acting Head at Fernwood site, Cllr Sue Saddington, Notts CC, Mrs Sharon Williams, Notts CC, Mr Mark Wright, MD David Wilson Homes, Mr Robert Galij, Manager of David Wilson

Homes Northern Division.

Sue Saddington opened the meeting and thanked all involved in the school development.

John Proctor, Chairman, welcomed everyone and introduced Bob Hattersley who spoke of the school development over the past two years.

Robert Galij explained why the original site for the school had been changed to the present one in order to accommodate the proposed future expansion of Fernwood.

John Proctor drew attention to the 'named' bricks showing the names of the first pupils and teachers.

For full report on the Open Meeting see FRA website and Notice Board

FRA

Protecting the Fernwood hedgehogs during the winter months

If you are walking around Fernwood in the evening or early morning, you are very likely to see one of our resident hedgehogs. Hedgehogs are widely distributed in the UK and are relatively successful in urban habitats, finding homes in gardens, cemeteries and wastelands. Hedgehogs are unmistakable, with prickly spines all over their back and sides, sharp pointy snouts with a somewhat concave face, tiny tails, and curl up into balls when disturbed. They can be anything from 15-30cm (6-12in) long, with a very small tail measuring 1-2cm (3/8-3/4in).

Status

Hedgehogs have shown a significant decline in recent years and the reasons for this are not clear. As a result of their decline, however, they have been included in the list of priority species updated in 2007. Hedgehogs also have partial protection from being killed, under Schedule 6 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, and under Schedule III of the Bern Convention.

Habitat preferences

Hedgehogs prefer areas where they will have enough cover and shelter, and where they will find enough food. Hence intensively farmed fields are no good, but hedgerows, woodland edges and suburban spaces are good for them. They are also found in farmland, parks and gardens. This is probably why they are so abundant in Fernwood.

Where to find them in the garden
Hedgehogs use gardens for shelter, making nests, or hibernating. They may be found

under piles of logs, under the garden shed, in piles of leaves or in compost heaps. It is easy to make your garden an attractive place for the local hedgehog to overwinter. Place a small pile of logs in a quiet corner of the garden or medium size dried leaf. They can be found curled up and overwintering in this. Even if you just have a small garden with a couple of bushes that is still enough to hold a hedgehog. They do not require much space. Hedgehogs may include your garden in their nightly foraging rounds; they can travel up to 2km (1¼ miles) a night. If you do have such a night-time visitor you will probably hear their snuffling as they feed or move about. They are reputed to be fairly noisy!

Encourage hedgehogs into your garden

It is easy to make your garden attractive to hedgehogs. If you have a fenced in garden talk to your neighbour or the whole street about making a small hole in the bottom of fences. This will allow the hedgehog free access between the gardens. At present, hedgehogs are struggling as more and more land becomes developed and there is a loss in available habitat, but garden areas are still very attractive to hedgehogs and by making them accessible you increase their range.

Role in the garden

Hedgehogs are sought-after garden guests as they eat up slugs. They also eat worms, beetles, caterpillars and any other invertebrates they can find. If you want to feed your hedgehog, put out meat-based petfood (including cat biscuits as this can be good for their teeth). You can also put out raisins, cooked potatoes, and chopped fruit. Avoid giving cow's milk as this can cause

diarrhea but put out fresh water instead.



Dangers to hedgehogs in the garden

Hedgehogs face several dangers in the garden and it is important to be aware of these:

Strimmers. If you have let a patch of grass grow long PLEASE CHECK before strimming. Hedgehogs have suffered very distressing injuries as a result of strimmers, often resulting in them having to be put down. Hedgehogs like to lie in the long grass during the day, so check through it carefully either by hand or sweeping a stick gently backwards and forwards. At certain times of year this will also have the added benefit of detecting any frogs or froglets that have hidden there.

Bonfires. If you have been collecting wood for a bonfire, check it before you light it. Woodpiles are regarded as ideal shelter by hedgehogs.

Ponds and swimming pools. If your pond or pool has only steep sides a hedgehog that falls in will drown. At the very minimum, please make sure you have a piece of chicken-wire shallowly angled so that hedgehogs can use it to climb out of the pond. Preferably, make sure your pond has at least one sloping side. If there is any likelihood that hedgehogs can access the swimming pool, either consider covering it, or put some chicken wire slopes in there as well.

Pernille Egeberg
The Wildlife Trust & Fernwood Resident



Fernwood Petanque Club—John Proctor (Chairman)



Fernwood Petanque Club finally became an official organisation on 1st July 2012. Fifteen people enrolled as members.

The club meets on Sundays by the tennis courts, from 3.00pm till 5.00pm. Anyone can join so please feel free to come along. Several members have purchased their own boules sets which can be found on the internet (Amazon priced at about £16). If you do not have your own sets we have sets that you can use.

The club also meets on Wednesdays at 11.30am until 1.30pm. Alexis Knock from Newark & Sherwood District Council has kindly loaned us some indoor boules kits. So with the inclement weather and winter looming we have moved indoors to the village hall for this session.

Again, anyone who would like to have a go please come along. We are a friendly beginners group and the sessions are full of fun and laughter. We welcome all age groups to join us.

What is Pétanque?

It is a form of boules where the goal is, while standing inside a starting circle with both feet on the ground, to throw hollow metal balls as close as possible to a small wooden ball called a cochonnet (literally "piglet") or jack. It is also sometimes called a bouchon (literally "cork") or le petit ("the small one"). The game is normally played on hard dirt or gravel, but can also be played on grass, sand or other surfaces. Similar games are bocce and bowls.

The current form of the game originated in 1907 in La Ciotat, in Provence, in southern France. The English and French name pétanque comes from petanca in the Provençal dialect of the Occitan language, deriving from the expression pès tancats [*pes tan 'kats*], meaning "feet together" or more exactly "feet anchored".

We are trying to raise money to create an official all-weather petanque terrain 15m x 12m between the village hall and the tennis courts. This is going to cost between £3000 - £4000. So far we have raised £1,050 thanks to donations from Newark & Sherwood District Council, OM, County Councillor Sue Saddington and Londis Shop of Eaton Avenue.

It is hoped that it will be possible to build the pitch early in November. If necessary we will reduce the cost and build it ourselves. If this happens we're going to

Volunteers wanted!

need as many volunteers to help as possible. The terrain will be an open facility for the whole village so if you are willing to volunteer your help and possibly a wheelbarrow and shovel please be in touch.

Telephone 01636 673736 / 07811648378

FERNWOOD CONSERVATION GROUP: By Merilynne Pople

On 3 August Mark Speck BSC Hons, Northern Conservation Officer, Conservation and Planning Policy Team, Notts Wildlife Trust, came out to Fernwood with his colleague, Gary Cragg to advise on the species of grasses growing in the enclosed meadow by Balderton Hall.



They were able to identify a number of grasses and made recommendations for the care of the meadow. Some grasses and plants such as false oat grass *Arrhenatherum elatius* and cocks foot *Dactylis glomerata* are there in abundance and are suppressing other plants. In order to give broad-leaved herbs an opportunity to flourish they recommended that the meadow

be cut at least twice a year. It was recommended that the cuttings be left to dry for 24-48 hours before being removed in order to allow seed to drop and provide an opportunity for invertebrates to escape. The cuttings should be collected and removed to maintain low soil fertility which will encourage a greater diversity of plant species and discourage more vigorous species such as nettles.

A survey of the fenced meadow recorded the following species. (Identification Code) - See pictures on Page 2.

- D - Dominant
- A - Abundant
- F - Frequent
- O - Occasional
- R - Rare

- Red Clover *Trifolium repens* (F),
- Lady's Bedstraw *Galium verum* (F),
- Creeping Thistle *Cirsium arvense*(O)
- Agrimony *Agrimonia eupatoria* (F),
- Ragwort *Senecio jacobaea* (O),
- Birds-foot Trefoil *Lotus corniculatus* (F),
- Ribwort Plantain *Plantago lanceolata* (O),

- Common Knapweed *Centaurea nigra* (O),
- Self-heal *Prunella vulgaris* (O),
- Bristly Ox-tongue *Picris echioides* (R),
- Goatsbeard *Tragopogon pratensis* (R),
- Field Bindweed *Convolvulus arvensis* (F),
- Lesser Stitchwort *Stellaria graminea* (O),
- Cocks Foot *Dactylis glomerata* (A),
- False Oat Grass *Arrhenatherum elatius* (A),
- Common Bent *Agrostis capillaris* (F),
- Timothy *Phleum pratense* (F),
- Meadow Barley *Hordeum secalinum* (F).



Useful Contacts

Local Police: Tel 101
 Emergencies: Tel 999
 Fernwood Village Hall: Tel 613024
 Doctors: Balderton Primary Care Centre: Tel 705826
 Newark Hospital: 681681
 Newark & Sherwood District Council: 650000
 Fernwood Parish Council: clerk@fernwood-pc.co.uk

Maintenance Issues

For any maintenance issues regarding charges, payments etc contact:

John Jeyes
OM site office
at the rear
of 112 Goldstraw Lane

He is now linked to the main computer at OM and should be able to answer any of your questions.

OM Property Management:
omfernwood@fsmail.net
Mob: 07738 738910

Fernwood Residents' Association Website:
www.fernwoodra.com



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Calling all Gardeners.....

Have you ever thought how nice it would be if Fernwood had a Gardening Club?

Somewhere you can meet other folk once a month who are as interested in growing stuff as you are?

Whether your thing is marigolds or marrows, "bowling green" or balcony, whether you're an "expert" or a "novice", why not come along to a new members meeting of **Fernwood Gardeners at 7.30pm on Tuesday 23 October in the Village Hall?**



At the moment we are a very small group of mixed ability who have nevertheless managed some meetings and outings over the summer and we'd like to be bigger so that we can do more. If you're interested it would be fantastic to see you.

If you'd like to know more email Anna at

birdmansscs@btinternet.com

I have recently had the privilege of attending two very different meetings on behalf of Fernwood Parish Council.

The first was the FRA Open Meeting held at the new Fernwood School - which incidentally is very impressive. At this meeting representatives of all the Fernwood groups, and new ones hoping to be started, talked to us about what they hoped to achieve in the future. Amongst the new groups will be gardening, conservation, crafts and petanque/boccia, so if anyone wishes to join any of these there will be notices on the board in the hall of meeting times - and in this newsletter.

The second meeting was with the Developers, District and County Councillors and OM Peverel. At this meeting the subject of the roads was discussed, along with our inadequate bus service and the bad parking over on the north side of the village. These meetings always seem to be three steps forward and two steps back but, hopefully, we should see some improvement in the near future. By October we shall have faster Broadband as well. You can be assured that the Parish Council will keep on campaigning on your behalf for better services in the future.

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome Browns Bistro and the Indian Takeaway, both much needed outlets for us. I understand they are both doing really well. The Parish Council is now working in tandem with the Residents' Association and together we hope to be able to achieve more for the community.

Why have a Parish Council?

A frequent question "What's the point of having a Parish Council?" It is, simply the representative and negotiating voice for the community.

Is it a forum manned by faceless individuals who are just there to attend meetings and nothing else? As far as Fernwood is concerned, all councillors are local residents who volunteer their time freely and all are involved to some extent as active members of the Residents' Association and/or some of the community groups.

A significant portion of the funding for the village's activities are attained via the Parish Council and this formal structure also enables us to contribute to key issues such as the Growth Point and Core Strategy developments which, when implemented will change the face of Fernwood as well as the wider Newark community.

The issues facing us are extremely

varied, from the placement of wind farms to broadband, from provision of general support and care facilities to environmental strategies, the maintenance of communal areas belonging to the Parish Council and policing.

On a day-to-day basis, the Council has overall responsibility for the management of the village hall - but naturally relying on some splendid volunteer support and the work of The Clerk and Hall Assistant. We also handle complaints and problems reported by residents interceding where appropriate to effect reasonable solutions. Financial assistance is made available to our community groups via the Good Causes fund which is met out of the Parish Precept.

It is our responsibility to review planning applications, provide rubbish & dog bins as well as bottle banks and to arrange and pay for their clearance. The Council is the primary

voice within scheduled meetings with the NSDC and developers in respect of the overall development for Fernwood involving schooling, transportation, road adoption.

Through persistent initial pressure we were able to drive through the build of the village hall and our new school. Fortunately, we have received tremendous support from our Residents' Association and our County Councillor, Sue Saddington in this latter respect.

We always have a full agenda at our regular monthly meetings. Why not come along and find out what is happening? There is an open forum at the meetings where you can express your views, especially if you feel that improvements can be made.

Contact: Jim Gould on Tel: 605082 or Email: jim.gould@b-es.org

Tis the season...

of

**Murder and Mayhem
Fun and Frolics
Deception and Desire
Shouting and Singing
Crime and Punishment**

which? find out at

Fernwood Village Hall

16/17 November 7:30pm £7.50

ring Mollie for tickets 01636 647116

www.fernwood-drama.co.uk



FADS

HALF TERM CRAFT WORKSHOPS

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Session Times

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Littering/usage of the bottle banks

Prevalent amongst the complaints received by the Parish Council and the Residents' Association are the costs that we have to pay in respect of the maintenance charges ie those billed to us by OM.

Further analysis needs to be completed of the actual amounts that the maintenance team levy on Fernwood residents – initial assessments indicate that this could be as much as £120,000 – which has to be met by some 800+ households. Approximately £150 for each property but this will vary considerably, and in the case of the writer this exceeds £300 per annum – many pay more.

Your advice is welcomed

However, what is increasing, year on year, is the amount expended on rubbish clearance. Not the day-to-day ground maintenance but the clearing of litter and the tidying up of the surrounds to the bottle banks. The time spent on clearing up after irresponsible and uncaring individuals is reaching proportions where it is almost impossible to control within existing budgets – almost to the extent that the labour

costs would fund a full-time support operative.

Additionally, the Parish Council are having to fund the purchase of more and more waste bins in an effort to encourage the small, but significant, minority to desist from spoiling our village. Of course, the bins have to be emptied and this comes at further cost to you since the charges made by the refuse disposal teams have to be met out of the Parish Precept - ie your pocket!

Some of us, who are conscientious enough to remind certain individuals who do not respect their environment, have been greeted with the sentiments “if it bothers you then you pick it up” or “get a life” or worse. I wish it were true to say that the problem was entirely caused by visitors to our village but this is definitely not the case. Further, I am afraid to add that quite a lot of the litter/rubbish collected is in the form of confectionery wrappings and bottles produced for the younger generation – so perhaps a few lessons on the home front and at school gatherings might help?

Is there anything that you can do if you are nervous about issuing a direct warning to those who do not care about creating a mess? Well, judging by the number of

cartons of bottles left beside the bottle banks they must have arrived by vehicle. Simply note the registration number and the time of the incidence and report it to your Parish Council. It will be followed up via the Environmental Office at District Council. Substantial fines can be levied.

In the case of general littering, make a note of the worst areas affected and of the times when you think this is occurring – of course the Parish Council has a fair idea of the worst affected areas but your input and advice is welcomed. At least we can post warning notices regarding the possible imposition of fines for offenders. The employment of a community warden who can patrol the village at key times, and who will be encouraged to take direct appropriate action, is also being considered. Additionally, and to set an example, the Parish Council do organise team litter picks from time to time to supplement the efforts of those residents who voluntarily collect litter.

Fortunately, the greater majority of our villagers both young and old are caring, responsible individuals, and it is a pity that this message is delivered to highlight the extent of the problem caused by the few.

Yet again, the subject of anti-social behaviour rears its head! Following recent discussions with the District Council and the Police there is a workable procedure which should be adopted by those who are experiencing problems.

For serious crimes or incidents we all know the main 999 emergency number. However, what about those other annoying occasions which are not life threatening but do cause us distress? For example...

Neighbourly disputes:

The first point of action is to have a word with the neighbour who is apparently causing the problem to try to settle amicably. Failing that, dial one of the following numbers:

101 – General help line - calls are acknowledged by the Police

01636 655488 – Anti-social behaviour office at District Council who can offer a full mediation service. If it is a one-off instance causing a problem either of the above numbers should be called giving as much detail as possible. In the case of repeated nuisance keep a log of all occurrences along with photographic evidence if possible.

General nuisances:

For example: boy racers, speeding, drunken behaviour, general rowdiness etc – do not sit back and think it will go away. As in the above report you must dial 101 and report every instance to the Police. Provide as much details as possible.

But what if the same type of problem reoccurs on the same day? – telephone 101 again. Do not hesitate to contact the help line for every occurrence. We have been faithfully assured that the Police will not mind at all no matter how many times they are called.

It would be extremely useful you could spare the time to advise your Parish Council of what is happening. Via the Safer Neighbourhood Group meetings (specifically set up to deal with non-emergencies) we do have some influence, and safety forums are also attended at District Council where concerns are also discussed.

Remember, if you do not call we cannot help. Never think that your problem is too trivial – if it is causing you difficulties then it is very real to you and is worth sharing.

Clerk to Parish Council, Emma Thorpe
Email: clerk@fernwood-pc.co.uk
Tel: 07919 564016

Fernwood Political Forum

Following an earlier appeal to residents to form a local political forum – there have been just two respondents who have expressed an interest. Are we that disillusioned with politics?

It is a truism that “everything is politics”. Not just the strategic developments at Westminster which can admittedly be quite baffling in their complexity but the everyday local issues over which we can exercise some

influence. For example your local tax bills, the cost of fuel in our locality compared with others, provision for the care of the sick and elderly, transportation or the lack of.

It really is all politics – so if you want to have a say then do join our cross-party group. One of our aims would be to establish a local website where residents could express their views on the above mentioned issues and indeed

many others which may be causing you a degree of consternation.

Can you make a difference? – Yes, most definitely. No, if you are simply content to be just one of the silent majority. In these recessionary times make your voice heard.

Contact: Jim Gould
Tel: 605082
Email: jim.gould@b-es.org



Service Times at our local churches

St Giles Balderton (Main Street)

Sundays

- 8.00 am Holy Communion (1st Sunday and Greater Festivals)
- 9.30 am Parish Eucharist (with Sunday Club)
- 6.00 pm Evensong

Thursdays

- 9.45 am Holy Communion

Balderton Methodist (Main Street)

Sundays

- 10.30 am Morning Service

Mondays

- 9.30-11.30 am Coffee Morning

Holy Trinity RC (Boundary Road)

Mass times:

- 7.00 pm Saturday Vigil
- 10.00 am Sunday
- 6.00 pm Sunday

Salvation Army (Lowfield Lane)

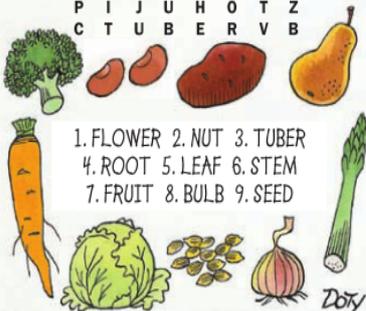
Sundays

- 10:30 am Morning Service
- 10.00 am Coffee & Biscuits served before the service

Plant parts

We eat different parts of different plants. Can you find 9 names of plant parts in the wordsearch below? Next, try to match each word to one of the plant parts pictured below.

B L K T R Z I W
 V E B G M S T A
 X A U S T E M V
 G F L O W E R E
 D R B A E D O I
 N U T I J L O C
 P I J U H O T Z
 C T U B E R V B



1. FLOWER
2. NUT
3. TUBER
4. ROOT
5. LEAF
6. STEM
7. FRUIT
8. BULB
9. SEED

Sudoku

3					5
	5			2	
6					1
1					3
	3			5	
5					2

Solution in next issue

Solution from last issue

3	2	4	1
1	4	2	3
4	3	1	2
2	1	3	4



Where do ants go for their holidays?

Frants!

What do you call an ant who skips school?

A truant!

What do you get if you cross some ants with some tics?

All sorts of antics!

What do you call a greedy ant?

An anteater!

Why did the elephant put his trunk across the path?

To trip up the ants!

What to look for in Autumn

Fungi – fungi are not just in woodlands. They pop up all over the place: on lawns and in parks, on piles of wood chip and on dead logs, on the ground and on the trunks of trees, even on cowpats! Have fun discovering the rather strange and mysterious world of fungi but take care, some species are very poisonous and only experts can identify the ones which are safe to eat!

Birds in flocks – Autumn is when many birds form flocks – from parties of long-tailed tits to huge flocks of waders on coastal estuaries. Look for flocks of jackdaws, rooks and carrion crows flying to woodland roosts on Autumn evenings. If you are near the coast look for great skeins of migratory geese which arrive from Arctic breeding grounds to spend the winter with us.

Spiders' webs – on cold autumn mornings you suddenly realise how many spiders there are. Take an early morning walk and spot spiders' webs outlined in dew on hedgerows, in meadows, even on house windows and car wing mirrors. Spider silk is truly amazing – see if you can find a spider actually making a web and watch carefully how it's constructed.

Gather conkers and sweet chestnuts – there is something really special about splitting open the green shiny case of the horse chestnut fruit to reveal the shiny brown conker within. They are great for games of conkers too! Sweet chestnuts can be gathered and are delicious roasted, especially on an open fire.

Wildlife in the Garden - Keep an eye out for what lives in your garden. You're sure to see some squirrels.

What about robins? The robin is the most frequently spotted winter garden bird. This little bird can be very aggressive when defending its territory. Robins occasionally nest in unusual and sometimes unsuitable places. In the garden they may choose a spot in a dense hedge or creeper quite close to the ground or they will use an open fronted nest box. If you want to feed them in the winter you can put out fats, ground peanuts, mealworms.

Earthworms: Create a mini wormery with a clear container, such as a plastic bottle. Cut off the top and poke small holes in the bottom for drainage. Fill the bottle with layers of soil and leaf litter, adding a small amount of water to keep it moist. Drop in a few worms and cover the top with a piece of cloth, secure with a rubber band or tape. Place the mini wormery in a dark area and monitor their activity over a one-week period before releasing them back into the garden.



Three generations join Fernwood Ladies.

Becca, a founder member of Fernwood Ladies encouraged her mother Linda to join. Linda has become an important member of the team and this year Becca's grandmother Vera decided it would be good to meet some new people and enjoy the camaraderie of Fernwood Ladies. We try to cater to everyone's ideas and age groups and now we have members from three generations to give us a helping hand.



Linda, Becca, and Vera

You may be wondering what happened to our wild flower planting. We've had a bit of a hiccup,

What happened to the wildflower planting?

as the original area provided for this project was not perfect, so we have decided (with OM's agreement) to relocate the planting to a more suitable arena. Watch out for a summer splash of colour next year and with time who knows. Mick Scatcherd, from RAFA Balderton, gave an extremely interesting talk in August, informing us

Fernwood in World War II

of the role the land, which we now know as Fernwood village, played in World War II. In 1939 a vast area of farm land was designated to become Balderton Airfield and three weeks after the farmers were evacuated from their land, the airfield started to emerge.

The small portion we know as our village played an important role for the hundreds of service men and women stationed here and from the maps displayed we could identify the history of the land beneath our houses. If you would like to know more please get in touch with Mr Scatcherd.

Tai Chi in September

Our September meeting had us up on our feet practising the art of Tai Chi. A fun night as the photos in the next Fanfare will show.

... and



...Indian Fuddle



Barbecue Night



Santa Claus is coming to Fernwood ! 1st December

Santa will meet and greet children in a specially made grotto at the Fernwood Christmas Fair to be held on 1st December between 11am and 4pm at the village hall.

Parents may bring a camera to capture the moment as Santa will be happy to pose and a post box will be available for any letters.

The Christmas Fair will have something for everyone with games, tombola and great Christmas gifts. Treat yourself to something special, get your Christmas Belgian Chocolate or buy your 'Secret Santa' presents from the fantastic gift ideas on offer. See you there.

If you would like to be involved with Fernwood Ladies email us via our website: enquiries@fernwoodladies.co.uk or contact us through the village hall: fernwoodladies@fernwoodvillagehall.co.uk

Calendar:

30th October - Games evening
27th November - Christmas Wreath Making
1st December - Fernwood Christmas Fair

Tuesday 9 Oct 2012

Fungi Foray
Sherwood Pines Forest Park,
Edwinstowe, Mansfield,
Nottinghamshire NG21 9JL
To book your place please call
01623 822447

Sat 20 October

Fungi Foray
Sherwood Pines Forest Park.
As above

25 October - Conservation Group (Meets at 17 Cameron Lane at 7.30 pm)

30 October - Fernwood Ladies: Games evening

16/17 November 7.30 pm - FADS next production in The Village Hall (See separate Notice on page 4.)

27 November - Fernwood Ladies: Christmas Wreath Making

29 November - Conservation Group (Meets at 17 Cameron Lane at 7.30 pm)

1 December - Fernwood Ladies: Fernwood Christmas Fair

10 December 7.30 pm Parish Council Committee meeting, Village Hall

11 December 6.30 pm Fernwood Carol Concert - Village Hall

7 January 2013 - 7.30 pm Parish Council OPEN meeting

8 January 2013—7.30 pm Residents' Association OPEN Meeting

Want to include news of your local group?
Contact the Editorial Team via
meril.popple@btinternet.com
17 Cameron Lane

Fernwood Family Focus

Our Family Focus

features the Walker Family.

Simon, Kim and Hollie. They moved to Nottinghamshire from Teesside a year ago and have been living in Fernwood for seven months. They chose Fernwood because they were attracted to the beautiful surroundings and because, Kim says, "the houses are all lovely and the village is well presented, which gives a feeling of friendliness".



Left to Right: Hollie, Kim and Simon

The Walker family say they have settled into the village really well and are very happy.

Simon, 36, currently works for local firm, Tanvic, where he is a purchasing assistant. Kim, 33, is a full time mum, looking forward to the birth of their second child due to be born on 27th

December. An exciting event for all the family, especially Hollie, 4, looking forward to a baby brother, or sister - and another reason to look forward to Christmas.

Simon enjoys running and will be doing the Mablethorpe half-marathon in October for the British Heart Foundation. He also likes cycling and reading.

Kim's interests include making her own hand-made cards and jewellery, also reading. Her favourite authors are Tess Gerritsen and Karin Slaughter. Kim is a member of the Fernwood Conservation Group.

Kim tells us "Hollie started at the new Chuter Ede school in September and she really loves it. The school is a wonderful addition to our village and was much needed!"



Hollie's first day at School.

Report from Fernwood Residents' Association (FRA) - John Proctor, Chairman

Since our last edition of Fernwood Fanfare things are moving on in Fernwood Village, enhancing and developing village life.

With the addition of Khan Indian Takeaway and Brown's Bistro, the shops are now complete. Brown's has brought many villagers out in the daytime and at night for social and culinary occasions. It's good to have a local meeting place.

Thanks to Louisa for her efforts to create a more vibrant village hall with additional events at both weekends and weekdays. The Village Hall User Group is presently working towards planning events for the whole of Fernwood to enjoy starting with an event for Bonfire Night on Sunday 4th November.

Next year there are plans for a Summer Fayre on Saturday 22nd June. Keep your eyes and ears open for news of other events - there will be adverts and letter drops.

Christmas Celebrations will begin on 1st December with a Christmas Bazaar organised by Fernwood Ladies in the Village Hall. Santa Claus will be there so keep this date in your diary along with 11 December for the family Christmas Carol Concert.

Community groups are active and new ones are being formed. The Conservation group, Gardening group and the Petanque (boules) group now supplement existing groups such as Fernwood Ladies, Fernwood Amateur Dramatic group, Fernwood over 55s, Fernwood Toddlers and Fernwood Sports groups.

Fernwood Residents Association (FRA) continues to work on behalf of the village. We attend maintenance development meetings looking into the upkeep of the village on your behalf. The trim-trail has proved a great success with residents of all ages making good use of the machines. The children particularly certainly know how to get the best use from the trim trail.

Recently FRA has worked with Fernwood Parish Council to provide extra litter bins and dog bins. Thanks to the generous donation from County Councillor Sue Saddington two benches will shortly be sited.

Finally the School's official opening in September was a great highlight, providing, at long last, a primary school for Fernwood children. Huge thanks to Headteacher Mr Bob Hattersley and his staff for their hard work in getting the school ready in good time for its opening. Do make the opportunity to look at the school and take note of the very special bricks on the front of the school with the names of the first children to attend.

The opening must give great pleasure to a great number of people - the Parish Council and County Councillor Sue Saddington who has worked tirelessly on our behalf to achieve it but also the residents who have waited a long time for the village school.

We now look forward to working with the school to further develop the ethos of our village as a caring community.



Do you have any ideas for family oriented village projects?

Write to the Editor with your ideas

Fernwood Carol Concert

Tuesday 11 December 2012

At 6.30 pm

In The Village Hall

With Children from Fernwood Village School

Everyone Welcome
bring your family and friends

Tea/Coffee and Mince Pies



Save the date!
Christmas Bazaar
Fernwood Village Hall
December 1st 2012
11am-4pm

Lots of fun and games inc Raffles Tombola Face

Guess who's coming to see you? Bring your camera and have your photograph taken with me. You can also write me a

Visit Santa's Grotto



Lots of craft and gift stalls so stock up for

Mince pies and mulled wine will be served from the



Organised by Fernwood Ladies
Enquiries to enquiries@fernwoodladies.co.uk