

SOMERFORD KEYNES VILLAGE LAKE

Report for online AGM 1 May 2020

The Lake subcommittee consists of 5 members: Chairman (Mike Wilding), 2 parish councillors (John Whitwell & Michele Rigby), & Lisa Willis. Nick Cartwright joined the committee early in 2020, and replaced Mike Willis who resigned in Feb 2020. We meet at approximately 3 monthly intervals, manage the Lake and carry out monthly Lake inspections, which record the condition of various aspects of the Lake, and deal with any actions required.

1. **CALOR RURAL COMMUNITY FUND:** In July 2019 we heard that our application for a grant had been successful, and SKPC were awarded £5000 for ecological, educational & recreational work at our Village Lake. This was a tremendous boost to the Lake Committee and what has been achieved so far, using our band of Saturday morning volunteers where possible, is summarised below:
 - a. Village Lake shed for storage of equipment, purchased and erected
 - b. Pond dipping equipment purchased
 - c. Bee house constructed near the boardwalk
 - d. Cutting down of primarily self sown willows, blocking views of the Lake, to create open vistas, and fly-in routes for water birds
 - e. Planting of 250 wood anemones

Due to the coronavirus restrictions, brought in at the end of March, the other main Calor funded projects have had to be put on hold. These are ready to go, once we are able to proceed and include:

- f. Purchase and installation of pond dipping platform on S side of Lake
 - g. Purchase and launching of a floating island in the centre of the Lake, plumbed at nearly 7m deep
 - h. Installation of owl boxes and cameras, and also bat boxes
2. **VOLUNTEERS:** During the year we held volunteer mornings in the summer, autumn and late winter, primarily on general maintenance such as clearing overhanging branches and undergrowth, installing ramps up onto the boardwalk, maintaining the boardwalk and planting bluebells, red campion & white stitchwort. Two young weeping willow trees have also been planted. Numbers attending volunteer mornings have increased to around 20, of all ages, and a good team is now building up. A reptile survey is in progress.
3. **WILDLIFE BLOG:** A blog has been set up so that sightings of wildlife can be recorded, including those from motion sensitive night cameras, which have picked up otters, badgers and foxes. The blog can be viewed on <https://skvillagelake.wixsite.com/website> Photos, notes, videos for inclusion should be emailed to skvillagelake@gmail.com. A whiteboard is now set up at the entrance to the Lake, especially geared at children recording what they see.
4. **ROPE HANDRAIL TO BOARDWALK:** Design work has now been completed for a rope handrail along the N side of the boardwalk. The cost of this is being kindly borne by Helen Sweet, in memory of her late husband John. The Sweet family have lived in the village for over 40 years. Installation work, however, is delayed due to the current coronavirus restrictions. Most of the work will be carried out by our volunteers, including a planned rope threading operation which we hope will attract as many villages as possible.
5. **ANNUAL BUDGET:** We work on an annual budget of about £1000 per year from SKPC