

Somerford Keynes Parish Council

## **SOMERFORD KEYNES VILLAGE LAKE**

### **Report for AGM 29 April 2019**

The Lake subcommittee consists of 5 members: Chairman (Mike Wilding), 2 parish councillors (John Whitwell & Michele Rigby), and Lisa & Mike Willis. We meet at approximately 4 monthly intervals and carry out monthly Lake inspections, which record the condition of various aspects of the Lake, and deal with any actions required.

The two main activities during the year have been:

1. ORGANISATION OF VOLUNTEER MORNINGS: These were held in June 2018, September 2018 & March 2019. About 6 volunteers turned up for 3 hrs of work, different villagers each time, so we now have a pool of about 20 interested volunteers. Work consisted of strimming around benches, partial clearance of bramble areas (leaving some for nightingale nesting), clearance of undergrowth in the older copses, clearance of overhanging tree branches in the autumn, particularly adjacent to the boardwalk, cutting of ivy stems threatening to strangle some of the mature trees, removal of old tree protection plastic guards, bonfires and planting of 500 snowdrop bulbs in the area just inside the gate.

Lower Mill Estate maintenance guys, under the direction of Mike Viney, have kindly mowed our 2m wide footpath at regular intervals during the spring and summer season.

Also, this year, we planted 500 bluebell bulbs and 60 red campion and white stitchwort plants, near the dedicated bench in the NE corner. Our average planting rate is now up to 100 bulbs per person per hour!

2. APPLICATIONS FOR GRANTS FOR ECOLOGICAL & GENERAL ENHANCEMENT OF THE LAKE: We initially applied for a grant from the LME section 106 fund, administered by CDC, in July 2018, After discussions with Sopia Price of CDC, this was withdrawn and we agreed to reapply in two stages. In December 2018, we applied for about £1800 to carry out an ecological survey and produce an updated 5 year environmental plan. This was successful and we commissioned Wildwood ecological consultancy of Cirencester to carry out the work. This is currently in progress, and we expect the report to be ready for discussion with the Lake subcommittee, in June. The results of this report will enable us to fine tune the projects we aim for which to apply for grants. Bodies we hope to get funding from are:

- Calor Gas Rural Community Fund: As this is an annual application with a deadline of 29 April, we have applied for £5000, based on some of the projects on our original wish list. The first stage of this procedure will be a public vote, via Calor Gas website, to shortlist. Then judges will decide who gets what monies. All villagers, friends and relatives need to vote for us!
- LME section 106 Fund: We will apply in July, once we have the ecological survey report.
- Landfill Communities Fund

ANNUAL BUDGET: We work on an annual budget of about £900 per year from SKPC

Mike Wilding

Chairman- SKVL Subcommittee 29 April 2019