

Milton Creek AGM 20/02/23

Rangers Report

Across the year we have had 76 volunteering sessions with the weekly Tuesdays and additional Sundays through the year. Typically, between 7 and 10 volunteers each Tuesday. This was a total of 4004.5 hours including hours spent at home as well.

Tasks throughout the year included painting of the park furniture, repairing gabion baskets, fencing around the solar panel, installation of new welcome sign, tree planting and coppicing.

This year there has been lots of coppicing work to catch up on from last year due to me breaking my toe and not being around in February with 4 areas now completed. Tree planting this year included gapping up some previous hedgerows, new hedge at the base of swale way where a fence was removed and contractors planting the last of the hedgerows to separate the grassland sections. Lots of the tasks completed early in the year were preparations for green flag particularly the painting of bins and benches and finding path edges.

We have had a total of 25 events across the year starting with the new year's day walk through to the rustic reindeers for Christmas. In total there have been 537 people attending the events. This also included the work with the creative estuary projected which included stone carving workshop and the installation of 3 new stone carved benches by Patrick Walls.

The surveys continued with the breeding bird surveys having a 71 different species recorded through the surveys. We also had newt surveys, bee surveys, bat walk and glow worm walks. A visit from the butterfly conservation found that we had rare fiery clearwing moth eggs.

Parkrun route has been adjusted to fit with the carpark opening in the spring, the automatic gates and CCTV have been installed to cover the entry and exit of the carpark area will be monitored by Swales CCTV department based at the multi storey carpark. The planned opening times are 7am daily and close march to November at 7pm and November to March at 4pm.

The Green flag award is the biggest achievement for the country park this last year, the judges was really pleased with the works that have been taking place on the park and advised some changes needed to the management plan to fit the Green flag criteria a bit more. Time is booked to carry this work out with Mike Phillips in the coming months.

Most of the above would not be possible without the support of the volunteers and the amount of work they all put in working at the parks and doing stuff at home from fund raising to making bug hotels and drawings on the computers. The volunteers carry out all kinds of things within the group from teaching reading and writing to tree feeling and most of all laughing or taking the....

Thank you all so much for the support and all that you do

Kris

