

Friends of Lesnes Abbey and Woods

General Meeting

20 January 2025, online

16 members present including

- Chris Hawkins
- Keith Langley
- Donna Cook
- John Stephens
- Claire Stephens
- Peter Carter
- Paul Hinkley
- Alan Ingram
- Jo Carter
- Tony Thomas
- Anne Marie Brennan

Updates

Litter picking - Donna Cook

Going very well, good turnout from Good Gym Bexley & the geo cachers.

Conservation – Marc Tuft

Again, good support from GGB and geo cachers.

Gardening – Keith Langley

Usually between 5 – 8 people. Grant has been applied for, this will help purchase gardening aids – mobile planter plastic dome and tools.

Art club – Peter Carter

Quieter group this month, but 3 new

Walking tours – Peter C to start monthly mid-week groups (first one 22nd Jan) Chris H to put together dates for monthly farmer's market

Forest Club – 10am each Thursday, run by Stephen. No plans for benches ATM, 3 already installed.

Updates from Chris H. - Historic England survey, Plaque and FoLAW funding of £500. Safeguarding policy. Farmers market – low numbers with same volunteers running the stall.

Froglife – Chris Hawkins & Marc Tuft.

FL are keen to get involved with FoLAW and run events with a grant, these will include new pond, activities in the lodge, training workshops creative workshops (water colours, mosaic) – Marc will be co-ordinator and will contact Rose. Needs to be advertised to a wider audience.

BEE (buzzing in the East End) – needs a co-ordinator – various names mentioned – Chris Rose, Jams owls. Members are free to make contact with anyone they know and feel would be interested.

Lesnes 500

Chris H explained LHF funding and the potential programme including

- * Improvement of ruins,
- * Education programme,
- * Woodland festival, 14th September – will be run & managed by CC events.
- * Theatre production.

Lots of volunteers needed and an event committee to be set up, Formal Commemoration Event on the 1st of April. Claire advised that Erith theatre would lend costumes as would Anne-Maries group. Ideas for the woodland festival include music, mobile farm, medieval village

Wassail

General feedback that everybody really enjoyed it, negatives that it wasn't advertised enough and disappointment that not enough spaces. As agreed, it went to volunteers first, members of FoLAW and then public. Agreement that numbers can increase next year.