

News from Friends of The Hook

'Friends of The Hook' is a group of volunteers who help to look after The Hook Local Nature Reserve. Our work covers a range of activities. Often it involves getting out on the nature reserve, planting and looking after native trees and shrubs and sowing wildflower seeds.

It also involves keeping a careful watch on what is happening with birds, insects and plants, monitoring and recording species to track their success or decline and assess the impact of changes in habitat and also of climate change and global heating. We are always keen to share this information through social media and events to keep people fully informed.

We work closely with Rushcliffe Borough Council, the owners of the site, who care for the reserve through their Streetwise team.

Volunteer with Friends of The Hook



We welcome new volunteers. This could be practical work at our Working Parties, details below. We also welcome help with social media, improving our website, taking photos etc. Help with planning future events such as the Apple Day and Tree Trail.

If you'd like to get involved, do contact friendsofthehook@gmail.com.

The Dyke



One job which is definitely too much for volunteers, is improving the dyke for wildlife.

Lady Bay Birdwatchers are out every week watching and recording birds and noted that the dyke was getting choked with reeds and it was likely we would lose the snipe and water rail which feed there.

A meeting with the Paul Phillips, the Senior Ecology and Sustainability officer at RBC led to him developing a wildlife plan for the dyke, using the UK Shared Prosperity Fund to employ contractors EMEC.

They dug out sections of the reeds to create pools and also to clear sections of bank to create better habitat for insects, birds and water voles.

Snipe have returned and mallards are using the dyke, so it will be interesting to see what else is attracted.

Wildlife Pond

More diggers at work!

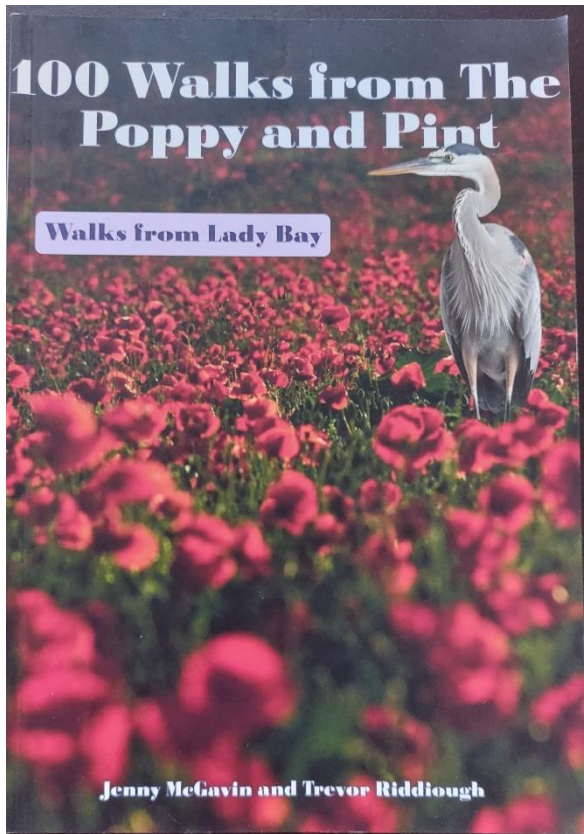
The wildlife pond was losing water, faster than we could top it up which meant that frogs, toads and dragonflies could not breed successfully.

Friends of The Hook applied for funding from the Community Infrastructure Levy and, thanks to support and votes from the local community, were successful in getting a grant.



The pond has now been dug out and we're waiting for contractors to finish the work so we can do some planting and seed sowing, ready for spring 2025.

Generous Donation



'100 Walks from The Poppy and Pint' is a book of local walks, developed by Trevor and Jenny during Covid lockdown. They have very generously donated all profits to Friends of The Hook. So, after selling all 500 printed copies they have donated an astonishing and very welcome £2000.

And it doesn't stop there! The Poppy and Pint are backing the publication and have printed a second edition of 300 copies – just right for Christmas presents.

The books are available from the pub and online

<https://www.castlerockbrewery.co.uk/shop/gifts/100-walks-from-the-poppy-and-pint/>

How to Spend it?

We are planning how to spend this donation and ideas so far include:

Tree and shrub planting, wildflower seeds. Apple Day - a community event celebrating the community orchard. Tree Walk – a digital guide to the trees on The Hook.

Volunteer with Friends of The Hook Working Parties

During the darker winter months we meet at 1.30 Mona Road entrance, first Sunday of the month. We can supply tools if needed. A friendly team, with lots of different practical tasks. Email friendsofthehook@gmail.com for further information

Sunday 3 November 1.30-3.30

Working in the pond enclosure, clearing blackthorn and sowing seeds.

Sunday 1 December

Tree planting and mulching established trees

Sunday 5 January

Tree planting and mulching established trees