

Porter Valley News



The newsletter of Friends of the Porter Valley - Registered Charity No. 1069865

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Geological Challenge

The FoPV Geology Group is runner up in a national competition for promoting geological education, part of the Geological Challenge for 2007, organised by the Italian oil company ENI, and judged by a panel of geologists. The stated aim of the award is "to recognise the achievements of individuals or groups in the field of conservation, interpretation or field geological education in the UK."



Our entry comprised several strands: the two full reports, two free leaflets, a 1:10000 geological map, compiled by us from unpublished archive maps at the British Geological Survey, several led walks in the Valley and several lectures to local interest groups. For good measure, we included our leaflet, "Reading the landscape in the Porter Valley", since it also contains a minor geological element.

A trophy will be presented to the group at our Open Meeting on the 6th February. Many congratulations to all involved - the award has put the Porter Valley on the map, to coin a phrase!

Peter Kennett



Toads, toads and yet more toads

On a few nights every February or March, thousands of toads attempt to cross Whiteley Wood Road to their breeding pond - Wire Mill Dam. It has been most distressing to see so many of these squashed by cars. We are keen to set up a "Toad Patrol", and to ask the Council to put up warning signs for motorists. We have been advised by Sheffield Wildlife Trust that this area should qualify as an official toad crossing.

We never know when the mass migration is going to take place, usually too late to do anything, so we would be grateful to anyone who is willing to be part of "Rapid Response Team" to be on call to come and help us carry the toads across the road. All volunteers will need to use fluorescent jackets, torches, gloves and containers.

Please email: creaghan59@aol.com or telephone us on 229 5459 if you are willing to help. Sheffield Wildlife Trust can be contacted on 263 4335 or email: sheffieldwt@cix.co.uk

Jennifer and Denis Creaghan

Endcliffe Park

Endcliffe Park Café's future was announced in October when Sheffield City Council Cabinet considered the views of the community and decided to award the new lease to the existing leaseholder Ash Charlesworth. Flora Owen and I attended that cabinet meeting and were given an opportunity to speak on behalf of park users. So for the next 3 years Ash and his team will continue to deliver the service people want and we wish him all the very best.



Endcliffe Park amenities for young adults are still being debated. The original proposal from the police to introduce a youth shelter has been broadened: a meeting took place in December to consider what activities and facilities might suit the needs of youngsters too old to enjoy the new playground that is being designed now with the intention to get it up and running from midsummer 2008. We do not want it to be the focus of resentment from older age groups for whom no provision has been made up to now. Our own 2001 user survey picked up the point that there was nothing specifically provided for young adults to do in the park. The project group consists of the police, Council Officers from the Parks department and the South West Area Panel, Cllr Mike Reynolds, and representatives of the Friends of Endcliffe Park Playground and FoPV and they are due to meet again this month. The 2007 student unpublished survey of user views on Endcliffe Park suggests more should be provided, perhaps including climbing walls and/or blocks, and supervised activities. It is agreed that the park is enjoyed by large numbers of visitors of all ages and backgrounds, and that facilities should be relevant to all. *Any ideas can be sent to me please!*

Ann leSage

Shepherd Wheel Restoration



Janet with FoPV volunteers at one of our dam clearance days

After great effort by Janet Lawson, our dedicated council officer, the bid documents to the Heritage Lottery Fund were submitted on schedule to HLF Leeds on Friday 21 December 2007. We are seeking about a half-million pounds. This effort has been supported by your committee, including: the gathering of letters of support from various individuals and institutions, many meetings with designers and advisors, production of written material and proof reading. We hope that the impressive documents will be welcomed by HLF with positive results of funding, but whatever the outcome we have resolved to continue with the project, even if that means seeking the necessary funds from other sources.

A fund raising committee was set up in December under the chairmanship of Geoff Marston, initially to seek funds to raise £20,000 as the contribution from FoPV to the overall required amount of £980,000. This fund has already passed £1,500 thanks to generous contributions via Greetings Card sales, "Bucketsful Donations", individual and corporate donations. Thank you to everyone who has so far contributed. If you have not done so, so far, please speak to any committee member about how you can help.

Sadly the Grantscape bid for monies was unsuccessful, so we are seeking to find out why our bid was not in the eight selected out of the twenty-eight valid bids submitted. This information may prove helpful in the future as we improve our expertise in this sort of process.

David Young

Footsoldier says that, on the subject of long term maintenance, requests have had a welcome response; firstly the attention paid to silt trap maintenance and to the Wire Mill goyt clearance – also to the reconstruction of the braided section of footpath up from Oliver's Bridge, thanks to those responsible. Now we need a spade and four-inch steel scrapers, to keep the cross drains clear from Clough down.