

Name & address & next of kin emergency contact for all on task

Refreshment on day 22/6
Walk plants 11-30 mk woods
Bird 2 r

Econet Meeting

Thursday 23rd May 2002, 17:30 hrs

Walk at McIlvas 19/6
Julio 7-30 at Styles Ref
0794 1909321
Tue
1909321

Advising - Treasures hunt need prices under the Micro scope

Reading Environment Centre
Prospect Park

Displays - Go Reading about photos of P-Park

- | | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Tricia Marcouse RUWG (Chair) | Steve Ayers, FOMPF (Minutes) | Robert Watson, Green Gym |
| Tina Gower, RBC | Judith Oliver, FOMPF | Christine Cliburn, FOMP |
| Lindsey Stewart, FOMP | Sandra Ayers, FOMPF | Derek North, FOPP |
| Lesley Marks, FOMP | Mike Cox, FOWM | Andrew Noyes |
| Eve North, FOPP | Kit Brownlee, RUWG | Phil Bagge, Cav Globe |
| Dave Kenny, Cav Globe/FOBW | Phil Allen, BeC | |

- Attendees
- Apologies for Absence: Ken Imber, FOMP & Sheila Walker, SCOMIT
- Alan Brickstock

The sad death of Alan was announced. It was agreed that an ongoing memorial "event" would be appropriate and would be debated at a later meeting.

Risk assessment in advance of Task to Tina
take up training

4. Insurance
In the absence of Jason from BTCV, Tina reported that BTCV hope to publish revised insurance details for conservation groups on 1st June. This will be provided via Zurich Municipal but there are no details of scope/costs at this time.

percentage work in RBC community grant of £900 excess as

Kit advised that she was quoted £250 to provide cover for up to 60 people. BeC have insurance via Zurich Municipal for £900. This includes power tools, personal cover, £5m public liability and £8k tools. Green Gym have arranged cover with Sun Alliance, via Keegan & Pennykeith, for £300. They have £2m liability, personal cover and tools, but no power tools are used.

Groups to charge for work RBC Green Gym £20/task - pays 6 months late

get of account list of member to Econet as part of consultation

RBC insurance officers are providing support & expertise. It is unlikely to be feasible for volunteer activities to be incorporated into RBC's own insurance due to employment/staff complexities.

Environment Grants - through community grants

There was a strong feeling that RBC should look to provide additional funds to cover the inevitable increase in insurance costs. If not, volunteer effort is likely to decrease because few will want to undertake fund raising simply to see it given over to the insurers!

6 Globe groups

Cost is the biggest concern amongst the groups. It was agreed that we should wait until the new BTCV cover is announced and reconvene on Thursday 13th June 2002 at the Environment Centre to discuss the next steps, especially funding.

If costs are high we could look at creating Econet as an umbrella organisation and take out a single insurance. Each Friends group would become a "branch" and continue to operate as it does now. This set-up would create new responsibilities in the central Econet organisation but the meeting did not see these as significant barriers.

Once again, the need for Risk Assessments was emphasised by Tina. The task leaders are responsible for these and any incidents that occur on the day. RBC would look to organise Team Leader training and other necessary training to assist the task leaders and other volunteers.

Oct celebratory event in Oct town hall in evening - Publicly opposing and training RBC group cutting
Julia MGC 20th of 10 - Information sharing - water too meadow
going on maternity leave in Aug
National Classification
5 x quadrats

Heron Island 21/7/02 10.30

It will be necessary to provide RBC (ie. Tina at the Environment Centre) with a copy of current Public Liability insurance cover note, advisedly for £5m, and a Risk Assessment for each event, before future events are held.

5. Making Conservation Exciting !

Two previous events were mentioned: The May Day at Waterloo Meadows (May 7th) was deemed a success, and over £200 was raised at the Woodland Products Sale at the Environment Centre (April 13th). However, in general, the new Environment Centre is under currently used and needs some new ideas to attract people to make more use of it and all the groups.

The following ideas were suggested by the attendees (More ideas welcome):

- 1) Set-up a children's **Watch Group** at Prospect Park. Would need helpers to act as experts in support of the co-ordinators. Derek relayed his previous difficulties in trying to attract young and older people from the surrounding residential areas.
- 2) Set-up **display items and provide education packs**. These need to be **readily available**, which suggest a permanent display outside so that there is always something on show even when the Centre is not open.
- 3) Publicise the Centre by **information signs in the Park**, located where people often pass/ congregate.
- 4) **Special events** were suggested, these included: Christmas Tree Sales, Woodland Fayre, Spring Plant Sale, Apple Fayre, Football tournament (with profits to environment causes), Guided Walks around the Park, Refreshment stall (there is an ongoing potential for a permanent "tuck shop" to be established), regularly updated Bird and Plant Lists on display to the public.

The following were adopted to start with:

- a) Go-Reading have a work party date organised for **22d June: Midsummer 'Megatask' at the Environment Centre, 10am - 4 pm**. Go-Reading will be digging out the marsh and various other practical tasks. Trish to provide (herself or others) identification expertise to assist Derek and FOPP who will lead guided walks around Prospect Park. "What we've seen in the Park" boards to be established on this date. Possibility of refreshments (and toilet facilities!) to be further investigated, but attendees to bring their own food for a post-event BBQ. **All Friends groups to provide literature and display boards about themselves**. These will be on show throughout the 22nd and can remain within the Centre. All ideas and offers of help welcome; contact Tina.
- b) **Apple Fayre to be held on Saturday 19th October 2002**. Details to be co-ordinated at the next meeting.
- c) **Christmas Tree Sales will be held at Prospect Park, provisionally Sat/Sun December 14th/15th & 21st/22nd**.

6. Events Around Reading

Wokingham Community Volunteers have a fundraising event on **15th June 11:30 - 15:00** at St Nicolas Church Hall, Earley

Volunteers invited to the '**Party in the Pastures**' on **14th June** at Dinton pastures 19:00- 24:00

There will be a **Bat and Moth evening**, preceded by a BBQ on **3rd July** at Mapledurham Playing Fields. Look out for further details in the Centre.

Training course:

BBONT have arranged a "**Guided walk Training for Walk Leaders**" on **9th June** Woolley Firs, Burchetts Green. Practical, all day training. Free, some places left. Tel. 01628 829574 for details.

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