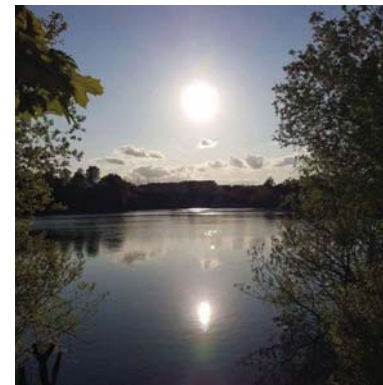
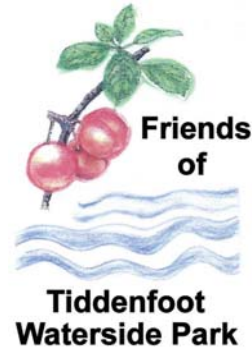




# Newsletter

Issue 13 – Summer 2016



A night view of Tiddenfoot by Ann May

## The Rewards of Sustained Team Effort: the Work of the Friends of Tiddenfoot Waterside Park

as reviewed by Ann May

Sir Francis Drake pointed out that the energy needed to start any endeavour is only the beginning; it takes sustained effort to continue and complete projects to yield the true success of the venture.

The summer of 2016 now reveals the benefits to Tiddenfoot Waterside Park of our joint efforts, beginning with regular meetings of the Tiddenfoot Friends, consisting of volunteers, meeting representatives of the Greensand Trust and Central Bedfordshire Council to coordinate projects and management plans. It is, however, the ever-widening circle of volunteers who meet on work party days who achieve specific aims designed to enhance the park's environment in an incremental way. Illustrate, this approach, let us examine one recent work party day, 27<sup>th</sup> May 2016, when the tasks to be completed, as set out by our chairman, Dave Ayers, were: to clear the

scrub growing by the hedge bordering the ancient Foragers' Way, while also repairing the oldest sections of the hedge with new posts and binders. Meanwhile, to the south of Tiddenfoot Lake, there was a need to repair the vandal-damaged baskets recently constructed to protect the pollarded hazels from being eaten by deer. North of the lake the low-lying acid grassland needed protecting by stakes and tapes and the newly replanted gorse required nurturing. During this time litter was also being collected from the whole area of the Waterside Park; the Greensand Ranger carried out an inspection patrol and provided tea, with treats being provided by Tesco, thanks to Tom Wise. Many tasks were completed on that single day and, as Dave Ayers said: 'Between us, we are making a difference. Tiddenfoot Waterside Park is a better place through our endeavours.'



The Green Flag Community Award

## Transplanting Gorse and Broom to Tiddenfoot Waterside Park

by Dave Ayers

On 14<sup>th</sup> April, nine good men and women went to the silver silica sand pit at Heath, having first obtained the owner's permission, and filled several containers with an assortment of gorse and broom, some very small, others the size of a tree. Back at Tiddenfoot the replanting began: in all over 150 gorse and 25 broom plants were replanted and watered in six different locations, following a plan devised by Ann May. It was a magnificent effort by all concerned. It is to be hoped many will survive the weather and vandalism.



This newsletter is sponsored by Connells Estate Agents, 4 Market Square, Leighton Buzzard.





Digging up gorse and broom at Heath Quarry.



Transplanting gorse at Tiddenfoot



Transplanting gorse at Tiddenfoot



Transplanting gorse and broom at Tiddenfoot



Two vivid shots from where we garnered the gorse and Broom as part of the regeneration of our acid grassland. My eye lingered on the rusting industrial archaeological relics there, wondering if any of it could be salvaged. Ann May

## Active Woodland Management

by Dave Ayers

On May 19th, a small group of "Friends" spent a busy morning removing the lower branches of the pines adjacent to the path at the northern end of the lake, at the request of Central Bedfordshire Council. The timber was all chipped, with the exception of a few large logs. The photographs show the working party in action.



Tidying up the pine trees north bank of the Tiddenfoot lake



The tidied area around the pine trees

## Discovery Corner

In this new feature of our Newsletter we look at the sheer scope of wildlife in Tiddenfoot Waterside Park.



A denizen of the deep – a catfish



Ladybirds (LJW Photography)



Damselfly (LJW Photography)



Emperor dragonfly



**Bird boxes and bat boxes like these are available to purchase: £7.50 each, or 2 for £10 while stocks last**

Order through the website  
<http://www.tiddenfoot.org.uk/#/wildlife/4562356703>

## Get Involved

You can always find out more about Tiddenfoot Waterside Park at our website:  
[tiddenfoot.org.uk](http://tiddenfoot.org.uk)

Visit us at the Linslade Canal Festival Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> July.

Please let us know about wildlife sightings at the park, via the form on the Wildlife page on our website.

If you see any wildlife in distress, please call the Greensand Trust Rangers on 01525 237760.

## Programme

### Meetings of the Friends of Tiddenfoot Waterside Park

Next meeting: Monday, 22<sup>nd</sup> August, 2016  
7.00 pm, at the Rushmere Park Visitors Centre.

**Everyone is welcome**

### Where is Tiddenfoot Waterside Park?

If you wish to come along and visit the park, a map is provided on the back of this newsletter. The park is accessible to all and is free to enter.