

# Fuzzy Drove Conservation Group

## Newsletter Autumn 2017



FOUR  
LANES  
TRUST

supported by  
Basingstoke  
and Deane

### Working party plans

This autumn and winter we are working in the areas highlighted in yellow and green on the map below.



Areas marked in yellow are new areas. Residents whose properties are adjacent to these areas have been invited to comment on the proposed work. The work in both yellow and green areas will include some clearing of undergrowth to make space for planting hedgerow saplings, coppicing of some hazels, creating dead hedges and planting native woodland bulbs.

### Flora Survey

Another activity we have planned for this winter is to complete the first part of a flora survey - capturing full details of the locations of all the hedgerow shrub species along Fuzzy Drove.

You might think that the winter is an odd time to conduct such a survey, but the lack of perennial undergrowth makes it much easier to identify each individual shrub. Identifying shrubs from their leafless twigs is actually very easy with the aid of excellent twig identification guides such as that provided by the Woodland Trust.



<http://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/naturedetectives/activities/2015/09/twig-id/>

### Get involved!

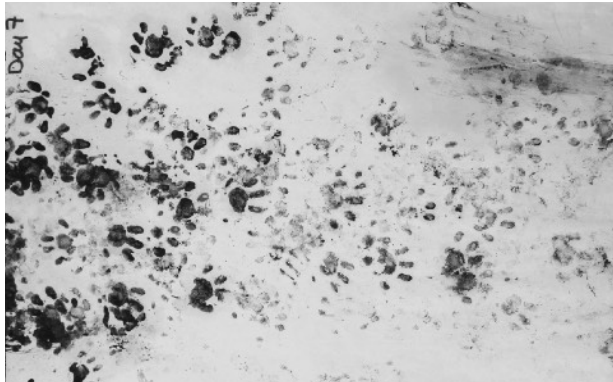
We are always delighted to see new volunteers at our working parties.



We meet every other Saturday (see our website, the Kempshott Courier or Facebook for dates) at 10am on Fuzzy Drove beside the entrance to Petrel Croft. Our working parties last for a maximum of 2 hours (including a coffee break!). There is no commitment for the number of working parties anyone needs to attend, all effort is gratefully received. Volunteers don't need to be able to stay for the whole 2 hours, some volunteers come for part of the working party and then leave to go to other commitments.

## Wildlife in Fuzzy Drove

We were delighted with the success of our hedgehog survey earlier in the summer. Many thanks to our supporters who hosted a hedgehog survey tunnel and diligently collected the survey results (a footprint sheet) each day. The number of hedgehogs recorded (both adults and juveniles) showed that Fuzzy Drove is a thriving hedgehog highway.



The survey also showed the importance of having a suitable sized hole (13cm x 13cm) at the bottom of your garden fence to allow a hedgehog to access the garden from Fuzzy Drove. The sole garden adjacent to Fuzzy Drove that did not have any hedgehog visits during the survey week, was notable for not having any gaps under their fence.

Full details of the results can be found on the 'Plants and Wildlife' page on our website [fuzzydrove.co.uk](http://fuzzydrove.co.uk)

As hedgehog enthusiasts, we are keen to encourage our supporters to support the local hedgehog population. The RSPCA provides excellent advice, including how to support juvenile hedgehogs, on its website: <https://www.rspca.org.uk/adviceandwelfare/wildlife/inthewild/gardenhedgehogs>

## Wildlife recording

One of the key objectives of Fuzzy Drove Conservation Group is to create a more diverse habitat that supports a greater range of wildlife. Monitoring what is seen in Fuzzy Drove is a good way of identifying if new species are being seen more regularly.

We are therefore very keen to build up a good record of all the wildlife seen in, or adjacent to, Fuzzy Drove. Please email details (via [wildlife@fuzzydrove.co.uk](mailto:wildlife@fuzzydrove.co.uk)) of any wildlife sightings you make, so that we can record them on our website.

Please see the 'Plants and Wildlife' page on our website for details of everything that has been seen since Fuzzy Drove Conservation Group began in 2012.



## Committee discussions and actions

The committee has met five times since our last newsletter. Committee discussions have covered: working party plans; planning the hedgehog survey; preparing for the AGM in June; planning future grant applications and fundraising; answering queries from residents about the work we have planned; and planning community events.

## Funding our work

We were very fortunate in 2016 to receive a grant from Four Lanes Trust, a trust that gives money to projects which will improve life in Basingstoke and the surrounding district. This enabled us to undertake a significant amount of planting and to conduct the hedgehog survey. We plan to apply for other grants to support our more significant expenditure (training and more expensive equipment) and we will continue to undertake fundraising activities to cover our ongoing running costs. It costs around £70 a year to buy the consumable items we need to do our work (e.g. cane toppers, canes, gloves and smaller tools). We hope to run a cake sale, a plant sale and the postponed Children's Bat Bonanza event in the Spring of 2018.

## Thank you to our volunteers

We are very grateful to the volunteers who support our work. The total time spent volunteering on Fuzzy Drove (working parties, committee meetings, surveys, events, admin etc.) exceeded 250 hours over our Spring/Summer season. Thank you to everyone who has contributed to our work.

## Keep in touch

If you would like to be notified directly of Fuzzy Drove events, or if you have received this newsletter through your letterbox and would prefer to receive it electronically, please email our secretary: [contact@fuzzydrove.co.uk](mailto:contact@fuzzydrove.co.uk) to be added to our mailing list.

## How to get involved

For more information about everything we do please see our website [www.fuzzydrove.co.uk](http://www.fuzzydrove.co.uk) or our Facebook page - [www.facebook.com/FuzzyDrove/](http://www.facebook.com/FuzzyDrove/)