



FotS Festive Newsletter December 2014

HAPPY CHRISTMAS!!

Dear all,

It's been a really busy year for FotS and thanks to all your hard work, a very successful one.

We held **16 events**, involving a total of **174 volunteers** and removed a phenomenal **252 bags of litter** (158 bags of rubbish and 94 bags of recyclables) from the Shuttle, not to mention assorted shopping trolleys, bits of metal and traffic cones! As if that wasn't enough, we also carried out our first ever litter pick of Danson Park Lake, re-positioned bird boxes in Bexley Woods and tackled non-native invasive species along the banks.

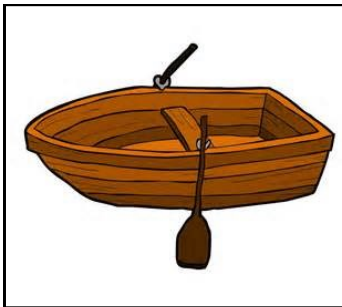
A **massive thanks** to all of you for giving up your free time to keep the Shuttle clean for local people and wildlife.

We literally couldn't do it without you!



FotS 2015 - Dates for your diary

Looking forward to 2015, we plan to start the year with a couple of different events. On **15th January**, we will be helping Woodlands Farm volunteers clear some reeds from their very large wildlife pond. This is an opportunity to do something a bit different (but still involving water and waders!) and visit another conservation group in the area. If you haven't been to the farm before, we will hopefully have time to see the animals and perhaps have a short walk around the lanes and fields before or after the event.



On **29th January**, we will be carrying out our second litter pick at Danson Park Lake. We are hoping that we will be joined by volunteers from the Cray team and possibly Danson Park Canoe Club so we can clear litter in the deeper parts of the lake. We are not expecting any nesting birds at this time of year, so we should be able to have a really thorough clean this time. We will also be inviting Bexley Councillors to come along and see what we do – or even join in! We hope you will be able to join us on both January events, particularly Danson Lake where we need as many people as we can equip with waders!!

During the **rest of the year**, we will continue to run our regular litter picks twice a month on the Shuttle, but we have a few other ideas in mind for 2015 including: wildlife walks in Bexley woods, carrying out some wider conservation work on the Shuttle (e.g. planting marginal plants, and doing a bit of flow management), possibly helping Sidcup golf course with the removal of floating pennywort (an invasive species) and, if people are interested, visiting another river in the Thames catchment area to help with one of their events.



So, lots planned, but we would really appreciate your views on any other events/activities that you would like us to get involved with next year. If you have any suggestions, please do drop us a line (friends.of.the.shuttle@gmail.com), or just tell us at the next event.

A very Happy Christmas and New Year!!!

All the best

Robert, Jane, Joanne and Mandy

