

Friends of Heswall Dales

Chair's report, May 2024

Another year of steady progress....this report reviews what's happened, what's going on at present and what we might do in the future – your ideas are always welcomed!

Over the last year.....



Much significant progress in clearing scrub (gorse and birch). Major areas now cleared, views improved for example the huge area cleared around and beyond the path from Feather Lane to the Heswall Society bench and along the path from the granite bench overlooking the Dee. **Replacement burning platform purchased, from the WBC “Working together” fund via local Councillor Graham Davies**



Keeping the Dales clean – we raised a petition to Wirral Council with over 250 signatures to encourage them to do more about dog dirt. An agreed program of “encouragement” and awareness raising is now underway with WBC ...our patrols and litter collection continue....



FoHD website Site Map in place. Digital map revised and updated with more info on what to see in the Dales



Green Flag awarded again



Improvements to Feather Lane path (thanks WBC)



Bat boxes installed in woodland valleys



More articles in local media and presentations to local voluntary groups plus Cool Heswall



We have continued the project planning and delivery items agreed with the local WBC Parks and Countryside team (it worked well last year).

What's going on this year and beyond.....

Scrub clearance will continue to dominate work on the Dales for much of the year: **we are now using modified gorse cutting sequences and looking at trials of other novel methods later this year.** ... there is always more to do.

We plan to install notice boards at the Quarry Rd West and Feather Lane entrances. Build order now placed with Dale Farm.

Articles about the Dales in the Heswall Magazines (large and small) that have helped raise awareness and encouraged new volunteers. The Friends had a stall at the recent **Cool Heswall** event. The **Dales Facebook page** now has over **1200** followers and we are hoping to hold a **Dales Open Day** in the autumn to raise donations and gain new members and volunteers

We are looking for another Green Flag renewal – the inspection was on 21st May. This award gives a great “vote of confidence” in the Dales’ future. Many thanks to all those in Wirral Council, the volunteers and the Friends who have worked together on this.

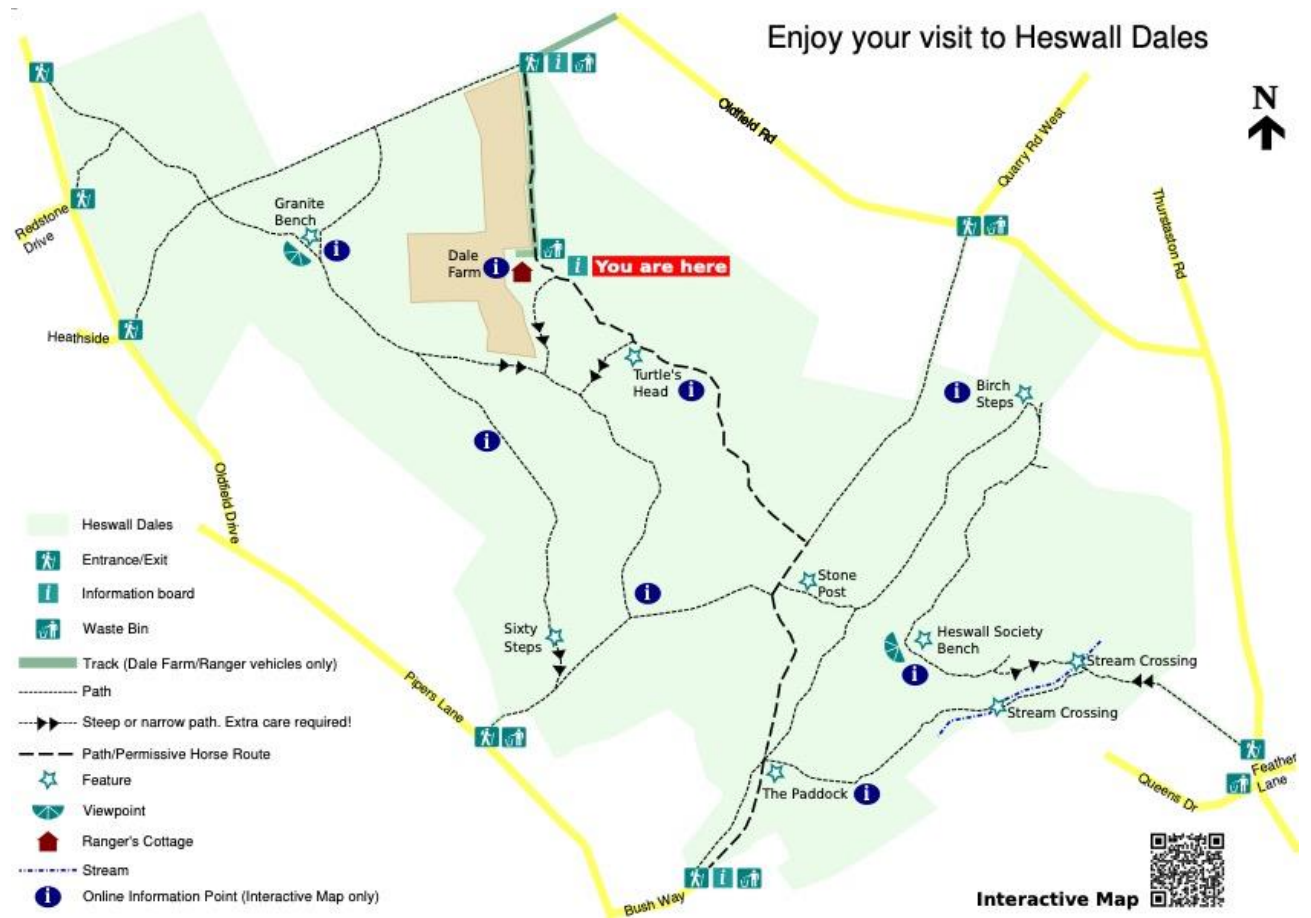
Dog dirt campaign: more “direct” signage will be installed shortly by WBC to target a hard core of dog owners who don’t bother to clear up. Marking with orange spray paint highlights the problem, collecting and disposing of the “items” helps....but we are encouraging WBC to look at more vigorous enforcement action.

We need more volunteers: we regularly have articles in Facebook, FoHD website, plus mentions on local radio, contacts at Cool Heswall....come along at 10.00 any Wednesday at the Rangers Cottage/call Ranger Chris Werney on 07767 474478.

Please give us your views on what else we should be doing – the Dales is in pretty good shape these days, but there’s always more that can be done.

...and please read our **Nature Report** that demonstrates again what a marvellous place the Heswall Dales is. In this current weather it’s looking particularly good and the views over the Dee estuary are spectacular.

Some recent pictures.....











Support the Dales!

Many, many thanks to **individual members and local societies** for the generosity of their **donations** – we couldn't make progress without your help.

Can you help by supporting the work on the Dales as a **volunteer?** – meet at the Ranger's cottage at 10.00 every Wednesday.

Join the **Friends of Heswall Dales committee**. There is always lots to do.

Your **feedback and suggestions** are always welcomed.

Contact us via

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See us on Facebook at

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