



## Friends of Essington Annual Report 2018/2019



### Windmill Hill Lay by

This area has taken a long time to get established and eventually top soil was tipped on top of the rubble that had been there for some time. It was then planted over a period of months with many plants from Colin and Dot's garden, wild flower seeds and bulbs from Staffs Council. The results of this project have given an eye-catching area with flowering of plants and bulbs at different times. It has completely eliminated fly tipping and antisocial behaviour and the litter is down to a minimum. We consider this area a great success and have had many complimentary comments.

### Calendar.

We produce a calendar each year which helps with our finances.

The 300 calendars printed were quickly sold. Thanks to all our outlets and everyone who bought one and also a big thank you to our sponsors.

We try to include as many photographs of the local area as we can, making the calendar unique to Essington.

### Old Hampton Lane-Top

This has started to develop with some of the wild flower seeds scattered there but needs more soil tipped and the pedestrian side entrance to be discussed further. It has been litter picked several times, the fly tipping incidents have been reduced but litter is still an ongoing problem. Eventually when more soil is tipped it will be planted like Windmill Hill Lay by.

### Old Hampton Lane-Bottom

The old finger post was removed, the overhanging hedge was cut back, and a small cherry tree was planted (donated by Colin & Dot) and an area created for planting flowers. A litter pick was then carried out and the help from a local resident was greatly appreciated. Two weeks later the area was planted with Alstroemeria.

### Bench

The area has recently been litter picked and tidied, the old plants removed, and the beds prepared to take new planting.

### Pools Pathway

The pathway that we laid in the pools area parallel to Brownshore Lane and commencing at the car park has been extended with a right-hand fork around the pool almost joining a pathway from the opposite direction. This was achieved with the help of the Open Spaces Team laying path edgings, material for the path being supplied by FOE and this material put down by FOE, local residents and the help of local businesses. Hence a muddy, wet slippery path has been made into a more walkable route around the pool.

### Hobnock Road/Methodist Chapel Area

This area was planted with the help of local residents with some whips, box hedging and Alstroemeria in a half-moon shaped bed. It was looking good and developing well. We knew that there was going to be some development in the area making a new road junction but thought that our planting was far enough back and would survive. However, a utility company have installed pipe work with extensive ground works and have devastated the area, it has been levelled and is very unsightly with lots of litter around. We feel that until the road junction is in place we should hold back on any future work, however we do intend to reinstall some new planting, whatever it may be. We did not spend any money on the plants and all that we lost was our time, but we did gain valuable friends in the area who have recently helped with our annual Spring Clean event.

### Fly tipping Around the Village.

Fly tipping continues to be a problem around the village. We have made progress in some areas, such as filling in the Windmill layby to prevent the frequent dumping of rubbish into the verge and trees. Other areas are under way such as the end of Old Hampton Lane. However other areas just seem to get worse. The latest blot on the landscape is the layby on Blackhalve lane. The challenge we face is the fine line between stopping vehicles having access to areas for convenient tipping versus preventing people from using areas for genuine reasons.

All we can encourage people to do is report all fly tipping activities as soon as they see it. We do get good support from the council via the Street Scene team so please refer to their website

<https://www.sstaffs.gov.uk/environment/fly-tipping.cfm> where you will find links to report any incidents.

### Report on FoE Quizzes 2018-19

Quizzes have been regularly held on a monthly basis at the Essington WMC during the last year. We now have a regular set of teams which usually attend. The usual turn out is 7 or 8 teams. The average takings are £60 per evening. The charge is £2 person so that means we usually have 30 people in attendance.

The prizes for the winners are provided alternately by the WMC and FoE. The quizmaster and other committee members provide bottles of wine, beer, and chocolate as prizes.

### Website & Twitter

The website friendsofessington.com continues to grow and is frequently maintained showing all our latest Tweets (554 since it was launched) on the front page. The events calendar is also kept up to date with FoE and other local community events. The @FoEssington twitter account launched in 2014 has steadily grown with a count of 205 followers which is up on last year's (April) count of 172 followers.

Major projects like the Spring Clean, Village Projects and other activities are also covered in the Events section of the website, along with photo galleries. Please follow us on our website and twitter for upcoming events and latest news.

### Church Magazine

The monthly contribution to the local Connection magazine is still a popular way to communicate with our neighbours in an old-fashioned way in this world of online social media. Writing the report takes time and gives a period of reflection before hitting send. Thanks to Kate Risbrooke for her editing skills.

## Spring Clean 2019- A real community event

On Saturday 30th March the residents did us proud by turning out in force in the Parish to take part in our annual cleaning of the village.

It is estimated that 130 adults and children took part in Essington Central including the pools and Nicket, Newtown, Westcroft, Long Lane, Bursnips Road, Broad Lane, New and Old Landywood Lane.

For the Westcroft Litter Pick 18 very enthusiastic residents gathered to help. The areas covered were all the Cannock Road, Cannock Road Island, the bottom of Windmill Hill, bottom of Old Hampton Lane and Woodhayes Road.

A lucky dip draw resulted in two happy pickers receiving a £10 voucher each kindly donated by Berry Brook Farm.

We are grateful to Essington Scouts & Guides for the use of their HQ allowing us to store the huge amount of waste collected on the day and over the weekend prior to collection by the District Council Street Scene Team.

Using the Street Scene grab lorry, it took more than 1 hour to load the fly tipped waste which included 23 dumped tyres from around the village.

Unfortunately, we cannot see an end to fly tipping in our village, so if you do see fly tipped waste please report it using: - [www.lovecleanstreets.com](http://www.lovecleanstreets.com) or [www.fixmystreet.com](http://www.fixmystreet.com). The District Council will arrange collection using the website information provided.

Special thanks must go to: -

- The New Essington Parish Council, District Council & South Staffs Housing Association for the loan of equipment.
- South Staffs Street Scene for collecting the waste.
- Alan Degg, Hilton Main Construction & Jamie Harper, Alvaston Loft Conversions for collecting the waste and consolidating at Scouts & Guides HQ.
- James Steel for allowing the use of the Scouts & Guides HQ.
- The Parish Councillors who participated on the day.
- Essington Rugby Club for their work at High Hill Ground (the Nicket)
- Wyrley Juniors FC for their work in Long Lane.
- To all Parishioners who participated on the day and to everyone who helped to make this a very successful day.

We look forward to seeing you all for next year's event

**THANK YOU** from Friends of Essington!