

## Farnley Forum

11 April 2014

Notes following the forum meeting which was held on the 7 April 2014, 5.30pm at the Farnley Tyas Bowling Club

Introduction and the meeting chaired by Mr Paul Sykes of Farnley Estate

### **Bowling Club**

Winter is a quiet time for the bowling club with the dart and dominos being the only competitions available to members. The green is now open and is in constant use for a range of competitions, which include both the Yorkshire Cup and the Huddersfield area competitions.

Two telegraph posts had been delivered to the club for the introduction of green lighting and a further two should shortly be delivered.

Facilities have been used for the last six weeks by the Huddersfield Bee Keepers Association for a starter bee keeping course.

### **Rifle Club**

Sadly, a member died of natural causes on the range at the last meeting.

Membership has increased for both the large and small bore ranges. The small bore A & B teams have won their sections of the Yorkshire league. With the range only becoming available in the last couple of years, this is a great achievement.

The national Canadian team are visiting England to take part in a number of matches. One match will be hosted by the Huddersfield Rifle Club over the weekend of Le Tour, which has produced challenges regarding accommodation.

### **Friends of Storthes Hall Woods**

The friends were represented by Andy McDonald and Peter Taylor. Some members attended the recent woodland walk at Farnley and were following up the discussions that were held during the walk. Members were attempting to get a management plan in place for the Storthes Hall woods that would take into account conservation, ecology as well as timber. There are ongoing talks with the owners.

### **St Lucius Church**

Brian Mallinson reported on the removal of the trees that had been highlighted, were in a poor condition. A tree had been planted in front of the church in commemoration of the birth of Prince George.



### **Farnley Tyas Community Group**

The community group being a conduit for grant aid was set out by Trevor Smith and Jane Faulkner. A grant had been obtained through Kirkburton Parish Council for the creation of a community garden at the entrance and within the Recreation Ground. Thanks should go to Richard Wood for the work he has put in to the project.

The next major event is Farnley Fest, which incorporates the village Scarecrow Festival and other events and is planned for Le Tour weekend.

Monies raised during Farnley Fest, including sale of trail sheets and a charity auction at the Golden Cock public house, will go to the Forget Me Not appeal.

### **Farnley Tyas First School**

The schools finance manager, Katy Howbridge, made the point that the school needed to enrol a further 10 children per year to access funds from local and central government. By increasing attendance to this level, the school would continue to remain viable. It is a catch twenty two though, in that the school does not have enough accommodation space for the current numbers and yet without added space and numbers viability will be questionable.

The Estate is mindful to make available land immediately adjoining the school for classroom development and for a drop off point and staff car parking. This is an ongoing matter.

### **Local Resident**

David Whittingham is a local resident who has only recently moved into the area. David had been on the Estate woodland walk and was following up the invitation to attend the forum.

### **Farnley Tyas Game Shoot**

John Ewart commented on how good last season had been, although there had been some predation, mainly from foxes but also from owls. In the year to March, some 64 foxes had been shot the majority being urban foxes. With the open winter the game birds had wandered considerably over the Estate and the percent shot had not been high. Hen pheasants are now sitting and therefore birds seen are usually cock birds.

John reported a Green Woodpecker having been seen and lapwings are back. A question was raised about deer and John explained that this was the time of year to start seeing deer with females `pushing` out last year's youngsters before producing further young. Muntjac deer were around on the Estate as evidenced by the damage done to the bulbs as rooted and eaten in areas of woodland.

### **Ramblers**

John Lieberg represented the ramblers. He had recently had meetings with Kirklees at which time it was pointed out that there were further budget constraints imposed. It will



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not be possible to fund any permissive footpaths or other rights of way. There is a new officer though who is keen to police blocked or diverted rights of way.

#### **Estate land and woodland – report from Paul Elgar**

- i. Whinny Wood - under planting with a mix of 60% oak, 30% birch and 10% of mixed crab apple, wild cherry and horse chestnut. Stocking at a rate of 880 trees to the acre.
- ii. Whinny Wood - the area from which the nurse crop of conifer was taken was a drawn out, expensive business. The oak and birch which should be the future stock are unstable and I envisage that there will be considerable losses in some areas. Some under planting will be required. There was no value in the timber cleared, which was chipped and blown over the land
- iii. Keepers Cottage paddock - during the felling it became evident as to the amount of damage that horses had done to trees over the years. All trees that required removal were removed. The lop and top was cleared and burned on site. Drainage both in the planted area and in the paddock completed which has removed the ponding to both the lane and within adjoining farm land. The under planting has been based on horse chestnut which will if appropriately managed give an important stand for the future.
- iv. From Keepers Cottage back towards Farnley Tyas there has been a clearance of the lane side copses of the diseased and malformed trees. The clearing has been followed up with under planting with predominately horse chestnut.
- v. Along the length of Field Lane at every twenty paces has been planted a standard small leaved lime, being parkland and avenue tree species.
- vi. Stock Dove Wood required major selective fell which commenced as of 3 February 2014. The removal of the lop and top not being cost effective was chipped and blown throughout the woodland area. Restocking of areas as under planting majority completed though the section nearest to Farnley Tyas will wait until the next planting season. Species of 60 % oak, 30% birch and 10% mixed crab apple, wild cherry and horse chestnut.
- vii. There are several articulated lorry loads of timber to go from the selective fell of 2013/2014. Unfortunately the quality is such that there is not a viable load of hardwood for milling. All timber will go as fire wood either through the Estate or to other processors. The cost of a tree, tube, stake and planting averages at £2.45 a tree + vat. Cost of labour for the felling (part felling was as a course for service personnel leaving the armed forces and was not as a cost to the Estate) machinery over nine thousand five hundred pounds. Some six thousand five hundred trees being fifteen thousand nine hundred pounds. There is the income from the sporting shoot of six thousand five hundred which is allocated against the woodland work. Sales of timber should produce in the order of nine thousand three hundred pounds.
- viii. The twenty eight acres of winter barley at the land known as Squirrel Wood field (opposite the entrance to Woodsome golf course) has been sold as an established standing crop being removed by the 15 July. This will allow for a re- seeding of a grass and clover mix.



- ix. Part of the holding that was farmed by Malcolm Kaye of Park Farm before his death was grazed over the winter months by Paul and Jill Thorp with sheep. Paul and Jill are better known as the farmers with the farm between the carriageways of the M62. The remaining farm land will come back to the Estate as of June.
- x. The woodland and farming strategy is beginning to take shape and it is hoped that will be in place for March 2015. Hopefully a full report will be available for October 2014
- xi. We are still struggling with the area between the end of Best Lane, Farnley Hey and Royd House as to re-seeding with a grass and clover ley. When the ground conditions allow the cultivations and seeding will get completed. As I am told on numerous occasions more haste less speed. For a `proper` re-seed we need the appropriate ground conditions.

#### **Chairs report**

The Estate has a new website up and running. Any calendar items can be added by emailing [info@farnleyestates.co.uk](mailto:info@farnleyestates.co.uk)

Unless the weather improves, the first of the horse rides on the 26 April will be in doubt. This first ride will be followed by rides on the last Saturday of the month up to and including September. There is also a day being held by the British Horse Society on Sunday 18 May as a charitable event.

A reminder that articles are welcome for the Farnley View – next edition September.

The remainder of Park House Farm land comes back to the Estate as of June following the untimely death of Malcolm Kaye in April 2013.

The importance of the 25-year plan for the Estate asset becomes more. Each area of land and the current agreement to occupy become part of the overall jigsaw. The possibility of the creation of a Farnley Estates Country Park is moving forward. Such an idea should give further and added protection to the created environment, which is subject to the very high stewardship designation, yet allow the overall asset to be enjoyed by more people for even more pursuits.

The consultation is an opportunity for all stakeholders potentially to influence the direction which the Estate takes. The Estate has already been advised to look at a greater area, to provide greater access to green areas, more outdoor enjoyment for more people in a way that is not detrimental to the Estate and to conserve the flora/fauna and agriculture on the Estate.

The next meeting will be in September.