

Newsletter – December 2021

Season's greetings and welcome to the 12th Quarterly Back Dane Trust Newsletter.¹

A number of activities and visits to Back Dane have taken place since our last newsletter in September. Covid is still causing a few cancellations and affecting what some groups can do, but we have been able to host Back Dane Trust Kids Weekends, Partnership Holidays and Working Weekends recently. See below for more information about these visits to Back Dane, as well as what the Tuesday Club has been doing in recent months.



Looking forward to 2022, the AGM is currently planned for March and given the current Covid situation, is likely to be held online again via Zoom. Membership subs for 2022 will be due in the New Year, with the annual membership fee continuing to be £5 per person, with membership forms to be sent to our Secretary Dave Evans once completed (tinandave48@gmail.com). Membership forms are available here: https://backdane.co.uk/uploads/1/2/0/3/120347127/membership_application_2021.pdf (although please don't attempt any payments before January 1st!) The Trustee meeting planned for December has also been postponed until January.

A huge thanks to all of the Back Dane Trust's volunteers, Trustees and supporters, and all the best for Xmas and the New Year!

More Sad News

Margaret Foxcroft passed away peacefully on 23rd September 2021.

Margaret was a much-loved wife to her late husband John Foxcroft, supporting him in all of his endeavours. She was also a loving mother, grandmother and kind hearted friend. Margaret taught across schools in Derby throughout her life supporting many children and families during her career.

John and Margaret met through their involvement with the Derby branch of International Voluntary Service which John had founded. Derby IVS was the precursor of the Back Dane Trust. In Derby IVS, Margaret was involved particularly with disadvantaged children, including going on the organised camping weekends for them.

John and Margaret were married in April 1971 and notably spent many hours driving miles through Derbyshire and Staffordshire to find a property that could be an outdoor centre for use by the group for those in need, or those who are disadvantaged in some way. That search resulted in their finding Back Dane which Derby IVS initially rented then, after an accidental fire, purchased and restored.

Margaret will be greatly missed by all who knew her. Hundreds of visitors to Back Dane in the past, present and the future will benefit from the endeavours of John and Margaret in finding such a special place.



¹ This newsletter (and other news) is published at <http://backdane.co.uk/news.html>

Nike Clothing & Trainers Donations

Before Covid, a group of young people working at a Nike store in Nottinghamshire had begun occasional volunteering at Back Dane, organised by Ellie-Kate Spencer who had been coming to Back Dane for years with her mum Linda. Recently, Ellie-Kate encouraged her colleagues to gather their surplus Nike trainers and clothing to donate to Back Dane.

In early December, Trustees Linda and Rick visited the Nike store to collect the donations. Lots of clothing and trainers were added to the supplies stored at Back Dane to support Kids Weekends and Partnership Holidays. A sizeable amount was also passed on to one of our regular partners, Wakefield City of Sanctuary, to be distributed amongst the refugees and asylum seekers they support. Many thanks to everyone who donated!



Partnership Holidays

There have been two Partnership Holidays at Back Dane this Autumn, working in conjunction with Under the Sky and the National Housing Association. The Under the Sky visit for care experienced people in October included activities as diverse as paddle boarding and a poetry workshop. The visit by residents of National Housing Association accommodation took place in early December and the attendees kindly volunteered to decorate the cottage in advance of the Kids Weekend taking place following their visit.

They did an excellent job of decorating several rooms and putting up the Christmas tree (pictured). Furthermore, the young people collected lots of Christmas presents for the children who would be attending our Christmas Kids Weekend (see below). There were so many presents that we were also able to donate the surplus to the Matlock based "Church in the Peak", for distribution to families who use their food bank. Many thanks again to all!



Kids Weekends

There have been two Back Dane Trust Kids Weekends this Autumn, one in October and another in December. Images here are from the December Christmas weekend, with the children loving opening presents under the tree, having a Christmas meal and playing games. There was also baking Christmas cupcakes, a trip to Tittesworth Reservoir, and as usual a wet and muddy walk!



Working Weekends

There have been several Working Weekend held at Back Dane this Autumn, with a number of different volunteers giving their time to help out at Back Dane. Another family friendly Working Weekend focused on outdoor environmental work took place in October, with volunteers helping out in the woodland to build up the brash barrier (pictured), trim the wildflower meadow, and clear branches around the Barn Owl box in preparation for next year.

Planned upcoming Working Weekend dates for 2022 include 28th – 30th January, 4th – 6th March, and 1st – 3rd April. Please email backdane@gmail.com if you are interested in attending any of these weekends.



The Tuesday Club

The Tuesday Club resumed this Summer and it was great for every body to meet up again, with most previous members returning together with some family members. Normal club evenings have been slightly different due to the spacing out of the furniture, but are almost back to normal, although pass the parcel is no longer an option! No trips took place this year, but there has been a Christmas Dinner at a local pub with nearly 30 folks attending, slightly down on normal years, but still a good turnout.

Other Groups Using Back Dane

Groups visiting Back Dane this Autumn also included Wincle School, Summerbank School, and Northampton Duston Scouts.

Back Dane Environment

As anyone who follows our Facebook page will know (all too well!) there has been a flurry of fantastic fungi all around Back Dane during the last few months. This marvellous mycology plays a vital role in the ecosystem around Back Dane, and the colours and shapes have been wonderful to observe recently (see below). While all the summer visitors have gone, a number of birds are still all around Back Dane, hurrying and preparing for Winter, including Great Spotted Woodpeckers, Coal Tits, and Goldcrests (pictured). The woodland wildlife cameras have also recently captured Deer, Badges, Foxes, Stoats and Jays (plus squirrels and pheasants!)

Work undertaken this Autumn has included topping up the Ash tree storytelling circle and woodland brash barrier, maintaining the sensory garden (including finding spots for some very kindly donated new plants), planting trees and mowing the wildflower meadow.



There are many outdoor and environmental volunteering opportunities at Back Dane for those interested in either coming for the weekend or simply shorter day visits, so if anyone is interested then please get in touch!



How to Support the Back Dane Trust

Volunteering – There are numerous opportunities for volunteering right across the different activities that the Back Dane Trust undertakes and we are always looking for new (and returning!) volunteers. If you would like to get involved or have any questions at all about volunteering at Back Dane or for the Trust then please email info@backdane.co.uk

Facebook – Please ‘like’ and ‘follow’ our Facebook page and keep a look out for new posts updating our followers with the work we are doing and what is going on at Back Dane – see facebook.com/backdanetrust or search for @backdanetrust



Website – visit www.backdane.co.uk

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