

NEWS FROM BARNFIELDS SANDBEDS – March 2018

As I write, at the end of February, Signs of Spring are all around. Bulbs are making good headway, buds are fattening on the trees, hedgerows are showing a little of that glorious vibrant green which will enfold them in the weeks to come and the birds are trying out their songs and exploring possible nest sites. But we must not get too excited for Winter has not finished with us yet apparently. The weather forecasters predict icy blasts from the north east and even snow with plummeting temperatures for the next two weeks!



Undeterred, the Friends of Barnfields Sandbeds, are devoting each Sunday mornings to clearing a large area near Orams Lane entrance to allow in some light to enable woodland plants to flourish. We aim to flood the area with English bluebells and try some woodland plants such as wood anemones and violets. It is so difficult to get anything to grow there for there is only a thin layer of leaf mould covering acres of solid industrial waste. Digging is impossible without the aid of our trusty mattock. We have spent so much time and energy in the past trying out various woodland plants and have had some success with bulbs and primroses but would love to widen our horizons.

We are very fortunate to have the help of three Duke of Edinburgh students and their parents who are enthusiastic, young and strong and a great asset to our regular band of helpers. Our thanks to Ben, Joe, Samuel and their parents who have made this task so much easier for us.

During the year we hold various events to which anyone is invited and we begin with a Dawn Chorus walk led by Glen Sibley who is one of our members. This will take place on May 20th and we meet at Orams Lane entrance at 4.15am. Hope to see you there.