

NEWS FROM BARNFIELD SANDBEDS – AUGUST 2018

Last Sunday, June 21st, we held our annual Pond Dipping Event, led by Sue Shanks who is a well-known local expert based at Kingswood School. It was a glorious sunny day before the temperature rose to intolerable levels and we were delighted to welcome 9 parents with 11 children plus 9 adults from the Friends Group.

We were pleased that SSDC were able to put our new pond-dipping platform in place the day before, so there was ample room for everyone, even a little girl in a wheelchair.

The children thoroughly enjoyed trawling their nets through the water, bringing their trophies back to empty into white trays so that we could all admire their catch. Sue was able to show them dragonfly and damselfly larvae, young newts called efts, greater and lesser water boatmen, pond snails by the dozen, bloodworms and many more.

Sue also took a water sample and declared the pond to be very healthy. We must be doing something right!

At midday, we all made our way up to Top Meadow where committee members had prepared craft activities and simple games for the children whilst their parents sorted out their picnic lunch.

Suitably rested and refreshed, the families were then sent off on a nature trail to locate pictures of wildlife to be found in the Sandbeds. They had to identify the creatures and learn a little bit about them and were then rewarded with a small prize upon their return.

A good day was had by all and we hope that the experience will go a little way to giving the children a love and respect for Nature, for the future care of the countryside will be in their hands.

Joyce Bradley

