

NEWS FROM BARNFIELD SANDBEDS -JULY 2018

We now have a second small bench installed overlooking the pond which makes three in all in that area. The new one is like the one already in place on Top Meadow, both of which were expertly made by our members from reclaimed railway sleepers.

We are hopeful that South Staffordshire District Council will be able to arrange to install our second pond dipping platform in readiness for our Pond Dipping and Picnic Day on June 24th. The Friends Group are currently spending extra time litter-picking and tidying up ready to welcome our visitors to the event. We look forward to seeing parents and children to what should be a wonderful day.



The marginal plants around the pond are looking good now with many in flower providing a riot of colour, but they do have an important function in the lives of the resident dragonflies and damselflies. Both of these insects spend their larval stage in water and then need a tall stem to crawl up to leave the water to start their next stage as a pupa before breaking out into a fully formed adult insect. A yearly miracle! Last year we were really fortunate to be at the pond on Pond Dipping Day when they were emerging and we witnessed this miracle for ourselves. In all the years I have lived in and roamed the countryside, it was the first time I had ever seen it. What a privilege! We have a number of different species of dragonflies and damselflies at Barnfields and I could happily spend all afternoon watching them going about their business. It's magic!

Joyce Bradley