



# Friends of Bradford's Becks

## Minutes of quarterly catch-up on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> April 2024

7:30-9:00, Saltaire Methodist Church, Saltaire Rd, Saltaire, Shipley BD18 3HJ. In 'The Lounge', accessed via the car park. [Saltaire Methodist Church - Google Maps](#)

<p><b>Present:</b> Barney Lerner, David Brazendale, Onno, Dalvinder Hellawell, Rob Hellawell, Sara Dixon, Kevin Sunderland, Irene Lofthouse, David Powell, Patsy Hines, Mac Price, Lola T, Graham Glover, John Ratnik, Joy Crampton, Hugh Bryson.</p> <p><b>Apologies:</b> Mike Pitts, Rose Reeve, Susan Waltham, John Franklin, Sam Riley-Gunn, Pauline Ford</p>	
Item	Action
<p><b>1. Presentation of 'Best Friends Forever – Bradford Becks' certificate.</b></p> <p>Barney presented a certificate to Joy Crampton in appreciation of her many contributions to FoBB over and above the 4 sets of minutes and booking of 4 rooms a year to which she originally agreed when she became Secretary.</p> <p>A huge Thank You!! to Barney and Rob for this.</p> <p><b>Additional Thanks from Barney</b></p> <p>Barney also thanked Irene, Rob and Joy for taking on many of his duties when he was unable to do so over the last couple of months. He is now able to take a more active part in FoBB again. Nobody had realised the massive amount of work that Barney does behind the scenes until now.</p>	
<p><b>2. Amendments to FOBB Constitution</b></p> <p>A printed constitution will be brought to the next 'Catch up' so that the change agreed at January's 'Catch up' (re opening a FoBB bank account) can be signed. No discussion needed today.</p>	Joy / Barney
<p><b>3. Beck Festival 2024/5</b></p> <p>a. This is the plan to hold a distributed festival, i.e. a series of small events in community centres related to Bradford Beck's tributaries.</p> <p>b. The working group of Barney, Irene, Joy, Susan and Hugh</p>	

<p>applied to the Leap for funding – turned down, and then to Bradford’s Art &amp; Culture – also turned down.</p> <p>c. The working group decided to skip over 2024 and focus on getting a plan and funding for 2025, probably via a Lottery bid.</p> <p>d. Irene, Joy and Barney met a team of creatives to discuss ideas for a 2025 funding bid. Ideas included geocaching, a sensory room related to the beck, walks, artworks., forging links with Bradford Museums. Discussions continue.</p>	Irene, Barney, Joy
<p><b>4. Anti-Pollution Game</b></p> <p>a. We put out a call for proposals to create a fun and educational game about how NOT to cause pollution of the becks. Patrick Ross won</p> <p>b. Barney, Irene and Rob have been engaged with him on the design, a proof copy was tested at the Catch up, and the accompanying banners were displayed. The response was very positive and a lot of fun was had.</p> <p>c. Some design refinements were suggested and will be discussed with Patrick.</p>	Rob
<p><b>5.a. New Edition of the Walks Booklet written report from Rose</b></p> <p>i. As the weather improves, old and new walks are being checked. A recent call out for people to test route directions had a good response.</p> <p>ii. There will be two versions of each walk - a shorter one with route directions for the booklet, and longer one with more information - history, things of interest, flora &amp; fauna, photos - for the website.</p> <p>iii. Aiming to complete the shorter versions by the end of May.</p> <p>iv. The current shortlist of 15 walks will be reduced to 10.</p> <p>v. There has also been an offer to produce a set of muddy boots symbols, which might be used to indicate the level of mud/water to look out for on each walk.</p> <p><b>5.b Litterpick on with Friends of North Beck</b></p> <p>Rose proposed that FoBB offer to assist the Friends of North Beck to do a litterpick at the beginning of the North Beck walk in Keighley. This is in an urban environment, so could be done in the autumn. It would improve the first impressions of the walk.</p>	<p>Rose and Walks Booklet Updating Group</p> <p>Rose</p>

There were no dissenters to the litterpick suggestion.	
<p><b>6. Pollution</b></p> <p><b>a. Culvert Pollution Reduction Strategy.</b> We have approached the Environment Authority (EA), Yorkshire Water (YW) and Bradford Council with a case for working together to find and cure the pollutions sources in the culverts. The Council is willing in principle, but loss of key drainage staff and budget issues is going to constrain them. We had a preliminary discussion with the EA who want to continue helping. YW haven't committed to a strategy yet, Barney will pursue this.</p> <p><b>b. YW's new 'River Health' team.</b> Rob and Barney took the head, Kevin Reardon, out for a tour of Bradford Beck. Rob and Wendy Robinson of ART took about 6 of the team out on a tour. We have shared our proposal with them, but haven't had any substantive response yet, Rob plans to follow this up.</p> <p><b>c. Survey of Water Quality - Proposed sampling for Faecal Indicator Organisms (FIOs) etc</b> Prof Rick Batterbee, the project leader, is currently unwell so the scheme is delayed.</p> <p><b>d. Pollution Incidents</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Premier Inn waste water still incorrectly plumbed into Eastbrook – ongoing</li> <li>ii. Haworth Scouring – new pollution of sludge into Eastbrook has stopped. Discussions are ongoing about removal of approximately 30 tons of sludge still in the beck.</li> <li>iii. Boggarts Wood, Pitty Beck outfall. (Allerton) Intermittent pollution, YW have visited but no change yet.</li> </ul> <p><b>e. Detention tanks</b> – YW have not told us where these are yet, it was felt that any approach to MPs requesting this information would need to be official, from FoBB, rather than from individuals. To be considered in the future.</p>	<p>Barney</p> <p>Rob</p> <p>Rob / Prof Batterbee</p> <p>Rob</p> <p>Rob</p> <p>Rob</p>
<p><b>7. Research projects</b></p> <p>a. Waterbox – is now complete. Dr Amy Jones, who led the project, has applied to Natural England for £50k funding for 2 cameras on Bradford Beck.</p> <p>b. Eyes on the Water – is now complete.</p> <p>c.. Culvert Mapping Rob plans to map the culverts for The Congruence Engine – a 3 year research project linked to the Science Museum. It is designing a UK wide digital archive of</p>	<p>Rob</p>



<p>get the bags collected.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>b. We would need to consider health and safety / insurance issues, although Mike states he is not an expert on this.</li> <li>c. He has recently litterpicked near his home, cleared 4 bags of rubbish and it has made a difference not only in the removal but the amount being dropped has reduced and the paths are still pretty clear. He plans to do another litterpick in a slightly different area shortly.</li> <li>d. The principle of the scheme was well received, and one person suggested that litterpicking in twos or more would be safer than picking alone, as stones had been thrown at him when litterpicking alone.</li> <li>e. There were no volunteers to organise the project, and it was suggested that similar schemes already exist, organised by individuals, local friends groups and possibly the council. There is apparently one in Eccleshill, and Apperley Bridge?</li> <li>f. It was therefore suggested that people who don't want to litterpick alone could either liaise with other FoBB members or join an existing group.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>11. Riverfly Monitoring in Bradford – statement from Sam Riley-Gunn (ART) read by Rob</b></p> <p>“I am writing to ask the Friends of Bradford Beck to consider supporting the establishment of a Bradford Becks Monitoring Hub through the Aire Rivers Trust Citizen Science program. Which seeks to recruit and train volunteers to undertake surveys of the becks to provide evidence of the problems the beck faces.</p> <p>Primarily, I would like to support the extension of the Riverfly Monitoring program to assess the long-term biological life present in the upper tributaries so a comparison can be made with the beck downstream of the city centre culvert. This is an essential part of demonstrating damage to the river from pollution. Which is necessary to evidence pollution events have caused tangible damage to the beck.</p> <p>We currently have 3 riverfly monitors working on Bradford beck who need support from more volunteers to effectively sample the main tributaries feeding the beck. Ideally we would like to grow the monitoring team to 6-8 people so effective sampling can take place once a month to detect and monitor the effects of pollution.</p> <p>To this end, we would like to ask if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.If any members of FoBB would like to train as riverfly monitors.</li> <li>2.If the group would be willing to fund their registration fees</li> </ul>	

<p>with the riverfly partnership £20.00 per registration. 3.If the group would consider sponsoring 2 set of riverfly kit for use on Bradford Beck to help with pollution detection and monitoring (£150.00 per kit)</p> <p>Riverfly monitoring is not only a useful environmental monitoring tool but can also provide new volunteering opportunities with friends of groups, diversifying the range of volunteering opportunities offered and creating information that can be use to recruit more members</p> <p>a. It was decided that Sam would be asked to provide a recruitment email which FoBB would circulate to members.</p> <p>b. It was suggested that funding should be sought from Council Ward Offices in the localities of the becks.</p> <p>c. Sara Dixon, John Ratnik and David Brazendale expressed interest in volunteering. Joy will let Sam know.</p>	<p></p> <p>Sam</p> <p>Sam</p> <p>Joy</p>
<p>12. <b>Any Other Business and News</b></p> <p>a. Talk given to Low Moor History Society</p> <p>b. Talks scheduled in next quarter: Queensbury History Society, Westcliffe Men's Forum, Oddfellows</p> <p>c. 'These Men' gave a well attended film / music presentation based on short films of Bradford Beck, in March. Future presentations can be commissioned. FoBB walks booklets were distributed and at least 3 people have walked routes from the booklets since and enjoyed them..</p> <p>d. Litterpicks. Thanks to all those that stepped in to help organise these. Last one Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> April, Chellow Dean Beck, Rhodesway BD8 0DB. ART litterpicks seem to have had fewer volunteers than FoBB ones, despite a similar amount of, or more, publicity. Rob is interested in the reasons – because they are on weekdays? Because ART were initially asking volunteers to sign up online?</p> <p>e. The funding allocated to daylighting on Valley Rd has been s stripped from the Council budget in the recent cuts</p> <p>f. Plaque 4 of the City Centre Plaque trail was damaged. The sculptor Pat Wallis is creating a replacement, after some difficulty in getting a piece of stone. 'Ed B' will be engraved on it in memory of the driving force behind the trail, Ed Butterworth. This plaque belongs in Millergate.</p> <p>g. Plaque 1 of the trail, which was in safekeeping in Barney's garden waiting for completion of the Odeon refurbishment, had to be transferred to the Odeon due to the risks in Barney's</p>	<p>Barney</p> <p>Barney</p> <p>Rob</p>

<p>garden. The Odeon pavement is clear of hoardings, so the plaque will hopefully be installed soon.</p> <p>h. Onno has spoken to an artist regarding possible outdoor artwork depicting the flow of water from streams, through houses, into sewers and back to the river. The artwork could be updated as the beck health improves. He hopes to liaise with FoBB about this. This was inspired by a mural on a building in Oslo., shown on Facebook by Barney recently.</p> <p>i. Yorkshire Magneteeers Ltd, a West / South Yorkshire based group, have proposed joint litterpicks with FoBB. It's unclear if they intend magnet fishing or litterpicking, they might not be aware that there are few suitable sites for magnet fishing on Bradford's becks. Joy to liaise with them.</p> <p>j. Knotweed walkovers. John Franklin of ART is asking if anyone knows of any existing knotweed near the becks, also for volunteers to survey potential areas for knotweed. It was agreed that if John provides an email for circulation, this will be sent to publicised to FoBB members.</p> <p>k. The Congruence Engine are organising a joint event with FoBB and Yorkshire Water, including the new game, memories of Fagley Beck with Irene, and more. Possibly at the Industrial Museum, possibly Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> May. Volunteers will be recruited when the date is known.</p> <p>l. New FoBB Bank account – has not yet been confirmed by Lloyds, Hugh will chase up</p> <p>m. John R. would like to put up A3 posters advertising litterpicks, on ply or Corex, fixed to lampposts etc. Possibly re-usable with an area for different locations / dates to be inserted. There were no objections to this.</p>	<p>Onno</p> <p>Joy</p> <p>John Franklin / Joy</p> <p>Irene / Joy and volunteers</p> <p>Hugh</p> <p>John R</p>
<b>13. Minutes of Last Meeting – on website</b>	
<p><b>14. Next meetings and events</b></p> <p>a. Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> April Litterpick Chellow Dean Beck,</p> <p>b. Quarterly catch-ups: Mon 15<sup>th</sup> July 2024 Mon 7<sup>th</sup> Oct 2024</p>	

