FRIENDS OF GLEN GOYLE - Report to STC Environment Cttee - 8 December 2025



GREEN: POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Based on the hours and effort put in, the FOGG volunteer working party is probably saving EDDC between £8k and £12k pa.
- When we started four years ago, we had quite a lot of heavy clearance to do. As the years have gone on, we have been able to concentrate on keeping the area tidy, continuing to control invasive plants. Established plants are thriving now that they have light and water.
- The big flower-bed between the brook and the lawn has been enhanced with plants donated by us and from members of the public. And we have also had financial donations from members of the public. EDDC has also given us a lot of plants.
- In April we hosted a visit by the Trefoil Guild, ending up in the Belmont Hotel for afternoon tea
- In May we repaired a section of dodgy footpath, covering tree roots with hardcore. this did not affect the trees, but has improved the footpath immensely. Thanks to those outside the group who came to help, including STC Cllrs Ian Barlow and Paul Dodds.
- A July inspection by RHS judges and Sidmouth in Bloom was followed by receiving an 'It's Your Neighbourhood' Outstanding Award Level 5 in October.
- And the Bassett Family memorial bench was installed on the lawn, paid for by the Bassett family. It took over two years to get this far: thanks to STC Cllrs Ian Barlow and Kevin Walker for getting involved and moving this along.
- We have installed a wondrous owl box, kindly donated by Steve and Sally Jellyman. We have 12 bat boxes ready for installation thanks to a donation from the Joyce Hill Charitable Trust. Thanks for advice received from Devon Wildlife Trust and consultants Halpin Robbins.
- Another successful FOGG year. A big thank you to VGS for its continued support, to councillors who have supported and encouraged us, and to the small group of EDDC employees who have tried hard to work with us. We appreciate the kind words we have received from the public, both locals and visitors, who through our wonderful haven.

AMBER ISSUES:

- We are hoping to reinstate a path that once linked the higher lawn with the lower bridge, making it possible for wheelchair access through all areas. We've cleared the route of foliage, and a survey is being undertaken by Andy Pitcher Land Surveys. Andy is doing this free of charge, so a big thank you to Andy. And because it is gratis, we must wait for when he has an available moment to complete his survey.
- We have explored the possibility of match-funding from a local charity who have been very generous in the past: they have indicated a willingness to provide funds for this path.
- Once we have the survey and the matched funds, we can then approach a local contractor for a preliminary quote and timetable. The volunteers of the FOGG working party would be willing to help with laying the path, as they did with the path repair earlier in the year.

RED ISSUES:

• We will be asking STC to provide the funds to enable completion of the path, as the Environment Cttee is key to unlocking matched funds. FOGG will be able to bring plans along to the March meeting for the Cttee to then recommend if and how much they would be able to contribute from the 26/7 budget towards this work.