

## Friends of Pelaw Wood 2018 Secretary's Report

I must first apologise for the brevity of this report - having a newborn baby has reduced the amount of free time I have considerably! Hopefully she will soon grow into an extra volunteer.

2018 marked the 15th anniversary of the formation of the Friends of Pelaw Wood, which in itself I think is quite an achievement. This year members have once again taken part in a wide range of activities. 2019 looks set to build on this, with a winter tree identification session planned for February, and hopefully further collaboration with others such as Durham Woodland Revival Project and the Environment Agency.

*Sarah Wheeler, Secretary*

### Publicity

- David Crutcher has continued to do a fantastic job with the website, including keeping the news section up to date, and with publicising events
- We have 56 members on our email list, our Facebook group has grown to 75 members and we have 48 followers on Twitter.

### Liaison with other groups

- *Durham University Conservation Volunteers* have yet again provided us with a great deal of help
- *The Conservation Volunteers (TCV)* through our affiliation and their website support
- Durham Woodland Revival Project - a partnership between Durham County Council and The Woodland Trust

### Liaison with the County Council

- John Bragg as the landowner's representative
- *Parish Paths Partnership* for funding

### Members' activities

- New Year's Day walk
- Repairs/improvements to existing steps
- Planting cowslips
- Reducing damage to the wood by blocking access for quad bikes
- Improving drainage
- Removal of fly-tipped rubbish
- Clearing brambles and bracken
- Path maintenance
- Litter picking
- Himalayan balsam removal
- Moth identification evening
- Enjoying our traditional bonfire
- Relaxing in the *Queen's Head* after working in the wood

## Acknowledgements & thanks for their practical and financial support

- John Bragg for his support, advice & encouragement
- *Parish Paths Partnership* for funding
- *Durham University Conservation Society* for their very valuable help, as always
- Tony & Barbara for the bonfire & refreshments
- The *Queen's Head* for all those plates of chips!

[www.pelaw-wood.org.uk](http://www.pelaw-wood.org.uk)

[www.facebook.com/groups/friendsofpelawwood](https://www.facebook.com/groups/friendsofpelawwood)

[www.twitter.com/PelawWood](https://www.twitter.com/PelawWood)

