



History of Friends of Essington

Friends of Essington group emerged out of an initiative from the South Staffordshire Council in 2003. This was initially a series of 'Environmental Action Group' meetings. These meetings covered subjects such as litter, recycling, tree planting and crime reduction. The meetings encouraged local people to join together to tackle some of the issues discussed. Thus, four attendees from the Essington Parish came together to form such an Environmental Action Group for Essington in 2005. The founding members were Colin Richards, Wayne Whitehouse, Paul Woolley and Jon Hanson.

Our first event was a litter pick around Essington. We then arranged local walks and other social events which became an integral part of the group.

Quite early on we decided to change the name of the group to 'Friends of Essington'. There was a steady stream of new members such as Dave Crudginton, Pete Ward, Fred Homer and Adrian Nicklin within a short time of the group forming.

Over the years, we have engaged with many projects as listed:

- 'Adrian's Wall', the roughly planted area adjacent to Swynnerton Drive
- The island on the A460 Cannock Road at the bottom of Bognop Road
- 'Windmill Hill' bench
- Grass verge maintenance
- Future Generation Orchard at St. John's School
- 'Fred's Bed' adjacent to St John's Church
- Bulb planting
- Brownshore Lane triangle
- Brownshore Lane Railway Crossing planter improvements
- Bridge at the Pools lower entrance
- Jubilee planter at top of Broad Lane
- Regular litter picks which merged into the 'Essington Wombles' group
- 'Pools Occasionals', general work around the Pools area
- Annual Spring Clean litter pick
- Annual calendar
- Essington Oak planted in 2005 to commemorate the founding of FoE
- Filling in of unofficial lay-by at top of Windmill Hill and the entrance to Old Hampton Lane from Bognop Road to prevent fly tipping
- Improvements to Bryn Whitehouse's Mound including sign post
- Pantomimes, previously held in St. John's School and Essington Community Centre
- Visits to other Friends groups
- Annual participation in Remembrance service