

NEWSLETTER

FRIENDS OF



ILKLEY MOOR

Steps.....

For as long as I have been Chair of FoIM, we have wanted to repair the steps that lead from the Rocky Valley, up onto the Moor and the Dick Hudson's path. Hitherto, it has always been too difficult, but this year, at last, the steps are being renewed and are nearing completion. This is entirely due to Richard Perham from the Countryside Service and our enthusiastic team of (by now highly experienced) volunteers. The wood for shuttering, the hard core and all the other necessities have been driven up and dumped at the bottom of the flight. From there, every single article has been carried up by our volunteers. Roughly 3 tonnes of hard core have been carried up by hand. At one place a large boulder had blocked the path. This was painstakingly moved by volunteers with crowbars and now, upended, forms one of the steps.



This is probably the most difficult task our volunteers have tackled. The steps will remain a tribute to their resourcefulness and determination for years to come. We think the original steps were probably put in by Victorian navvies and had lasted 120 years. We hope that our volunteers work may be as long lived, though we do expect that, from time to time a few more bucket loads of hard core will need to be carried up to keep the steps in good condition.

Donation

We have received an extraordinarily generous donation, of £3000, from Richard Atkinson. This is the third time he, and his family have made such large donations to FoIM. We are extremely grateful. As I have explained (many times) the money we receive from our members is, pound for pound, worth two or three times as much as money from grant giving bodies. The reason is simple. Money from funding applications to grant giving bodies always comes with strings attached, but money from members, we can spend entirely as we think most appropriate.

The money from Richard Atkinson is not the only substantial donation we have received. Two members have each donated £500 to be spent on hire of the Flailbot to cut bracken.

We are hugely grateful to our members for all their donations, large or small.

Flailbot

And while we are on the subject of the Flailbot (see above) , Tracey, our Project Officer, has put in for a £6000 grant towards the hire of the Flailbot (at £500 a day). We have decided that irrespective of the success of this application we will commit £3000 of our own money to Flailbot hire, thus, this August we intend to be in a position to pay for 8 days use of the Flailbot to cut bracken on the Moor.

Litter Picking recognition

You will all know how successful our litter picking volunteers have been in keeping Ilkley litter free. Their efforts are immense and we are very grateful to them. But one, Barney Street, has excelled. Our litter pickers try to keep a record of the bags they have filled during their litter picking. Barney goes out nearly every day and we reckon that he has filled well over 100 litter sacks. His efforts have been so remarkable that we were very glad that Ilkley Town Council thought it appropriate to recognise all that he has done and the Mayor, Damian Kearns, awarded him a special certificate of merit at the July meeting of ITC. FoIM

believes that this award was absolutely justified and we are proud of what Barney has done for Ilkley and for FoIM.



Civic Society Award

While we are on the subject of awards, we are proud that this year, Ilkley Civic Society made an award, not to an individual or to a piece of architecture, to those individuals and voluntary bodies, such as FoIM who, in their opinion 'gave their time to maintain and improving spaces in and around Ilkley in 2023. We are touched and delighted at this public recognition of our efforts.

Owen Wells
Chair, FoIM July 2024