

## **Friends of Dalby Forest**

'The **Friends of Dalby Forest** were formed in 2003 to help promote to increase knowledge, understanding and enjoyment of Dalby and the surrounding forests and became a registered charity in 2008. We have our own website [www.friendsofdalbyforest.org.uk](http://www.friendsofdalbyforest.org.uk) and can be contacted through our webmaster at [webmaster@friendsofdalbyforest.org.uk](mailto:webmaster@friendsofdalbyforest.org.uk)

We run volunteer days to support our projects or to plan for the events we run at Halloween and Easter.

## **Teenage Volunteers**

The Friends welcome volunteers of all ages and over a year ago were joined by our first teenage volunteer who was keen to satisfy the requirement of community service for his Duke of Edinburgh Award. We are delighted to report that we now have three very enthusiastic teenage volunteers who are proving to be a great asset on our practical days in the forest.

Another increase in our volunteer workforce has been the addition of three generations of a family. A lady had contacted us and offered to come along and help, but when she arrived she had brought her mother and daughter along. They all enjoyed contributing to the development of the Enchanted Wood, and are now very enthusiastic and willing volunteers.

More volunteers are always welcome so if you fancy a day out in the fresh air meeting new people and contributing to developments in the forest why not get in touch.

## **Halloween**

The Friends have supported the Forestry Commission's Halloween event for a number of years and this year will be no exception. Last year the best dressed competition proved very popular and attracted a large number of entries and we have a new format planned again for this year.

## **The Friends get involved in a new project**

The Friends have been approached by the Forestry Commission to help with a project to create a forest garden initially around the courtyard and old visitor centre. Initially the Friends will be applying for funding to support the project and have committed volunteer hours to add to initial funding from FC to support the application.

The Friends have already mailed all residents of Low Dalby to ensure that local residents are given the maximum opportunity to get involved in the enhancements to the environment in that area.

It is envisaged that if the project gets the necessary funding then it could be extended gradually toward the visitor centre car park.

## **Suggestion Box**

The Friends have a suggestion box in the Visitor Centre shop which offers the public another way of getting their views or ideas across to us.

J Gibbs – Chairman Friends of Dalby Forest