

President: Rt.Hon. the Lord Randall of Uxbridge Kt.PC.

To all members of the Friends of the Colne Valley Park

January 2023

Dear Friend



Invitation to Annual Friends Meeting.

I warmly invite you to join us at the Annual Friends Meeting to be held at the Colne Valley Park Visitor Centre, Denham, UB9 5PG, on Thursday 23rd March. Arrive from 5:45pm for a 6pm prompt start. There will be free parking in the Staff Car Park. We intend to finish by 7:30pm.

This will be the first time that the Friends have met for some years with covid and lockdown stopping us meeting recently. We look forward to seeing you there.

The last year has been a busy year for us as we work to **Protect, Enhance and Promote** the Colne Valley Regional Park.

- On the positive side we have seen the completion of the £2.5M Lottery-funded Landscape partnership, the success of 'green teams' and changes to our organisational structure to streamline governance and reduce costs.
- On the negative side we have been facing a deluge of speculative development proposals in this precious countryside.

The meeting will explore some of this and will give you the opportunity to vote for the Friends Representative to serve as a Colne Valley Regional Park Trustee. Glenys Price is the current Friends Representative. She has indicated that she will be happy to be considered to continue in this role. We are looking for Trustees with a commitment to the work of the Trust and are looking for a broad range of skills and experience across all Trustees. If you feel you can offer something to help with the governance of the Trust please do consider another nomination. To put yourself forward please contact Michelle (see details below) before March 15th.

The agenda for the event is overleaf. Please also complete a short survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/DL69SHS> to help us understand the views of our supporters, It is much easier for us if you complete the survey online but if you are unable to do this please send the questionnaire and confirmation of your attendance (or otherwise) to michelle.jones@groundwork.org.uk or post to the office address at the bottom of this letter.

I look forward to seeing you on March 23rd.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'J. Whitby'.

John Whitby, Chairman

Colne Valley Park Trust
Charity Registration Number: 1181303

Registered Office: c/o Colne Valley Park Visitor Centre, Denham Court Drive, Denham,
Buckinghamshire, UB9 5PG
www.colnevalleypark.org.uk

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ANNUAL FRIENDS MEETING

**23rd March 2023,
Arrival from 5:45pm for a 6:00pm prompt start**

AGENDA

Welcome & Introduction.

Glenys Price, Friends Representative for the three-year term from 2019 to 2022

Membership Secretary's report.

Paul Graham, Membership secretary

The Colne Valley Regional Park: Where have we come from? Where are we now?
Where are we going?

Stewart Pomeroy, Colne Valley Managing Agent

Friends Representative. Voting on nominations received

John Whitby, Chairman

Guest Speaker: The Colne Valley Landscape Partnership. £2.5m of Lottery Funding to improve the local environment – including helping Eels complete their 3,000 mile journey from the Sargasso Sea to the lakes & rivers of the Colne Valley.

Debbie Valman, Groundwork South

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Friends Survey

We want to hear your views. Please complete a short survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/DL69SHS> to help us understand the views of our supporters. It is much easier for us if you complete the survey online but if you are unable to do this, please send the questionnaire and confirmation of your attendance to michelle.jones@groundwork.org.uk or post to the address below.

Everything that the Colne Valley Park does is guided by the six objectives of the Park. These can be seen in full at <https://www.colnevalleypark.org.uk/whats-special/>. Please circle your top three priorities:

- Maintain and enhance the **landscape**
- Safeguard the **countryside**
- Conserve and enhance **biodiversity**
- Provide opportunities for countryside **recreation**
- Achieve a vibrant and sustainable **rural economy (farming and forestry)**
- Encourage **community participation**

The Colne Valley Regional Park does not receive government funding like the Chilterns AONB or the Lea Valley Regional Park. The work that we need to do is not fully covered by the funding available to us. What should our priorities be? Please circle your top three priorities.

- Campaigning and awareness raising amongst the public about the park, the challenges and what we do.
- Campaigning and awareness raising amongst politicians – MPs and local councillors
- Seeking funding from lottery and other sources to help improve the Park.
- Responding to major planning applications in the Green Belt and making the case for the countryside in responses to consultations on local plans, government policy and others e.g. water company plans.
- Managing and improving the ancient woodlands that we own (on 99-year leases)
- Anything else.....

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What do you/would you most value about being a member of the Friends?

- Hearing about what the Colne Valley Regional Park is doing
- Supporting the work of the Park
- Helping us to protect and enhance the landscape
- Attending events
- Anything else.....

If the Friends of the Colne Valley Park were to undertake events for members would you attend these? Please tick the events you would be interested in and indicate whether you could help organise events

Type of event	Attend (please tick)	Organise (please tick)
Guided walks		
Talks about wildlife, landscape, history etc		
Fundraising quiz		
Any other suggestions. Please write below ...		

Membership fees are currently: Adult £5, Couple £9, Family £10, Concession £4
We have kept these fees at the same level for several years to help attract new members. We are grateful for the generous donations that many of our Friends make.

Should we (please circle)

Increase fees keep fees the same Decrease fees

Any other comments or suggestions...

I am able to attend the Annual Friends Meeting on 23rd March 2023

Yes No

Name.....

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