



# Friends of Bidston Hill

## Newsletter - Winter 2025/26



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### Chair's Report

Earlier this year, our long-standing Chair, Roy Caligari, took the decision to stand down from the role he had held for fifteen years.

I'm honoured to step into the role of Chair for The Friends of Bidston Hill following Roy Caligari's remarkable stewardship.

Over the past decade and a half, Roy championed countless projects that have helped preserve the natural beauty and historic character of Bidston Hill. His dedication has left a lasting legacy, and I'd like to thank him sincerely for his tireless service.

The Friends of Bidston Hill aim to support the development of the Hill for the local and wider community while preserving its unique character and natural beauty. We work in partnership with Wirral Council's Parks and Countryside Service to create new ideas and projects for the benefit of the Hill and its visitors.

In my new role as Chair, I hope to build on that strong foundation by encouraging even greater community involvement with local schools and businesses, and by exploring new conservation initiatives that protect the Hill's unique habitats.



Together with our dedicated members and team of volunteers, I look forward to enhancing the visitor experience, safeguarding the landscape for future generations, and ensuring that Bidston Hill remains a treasured green space for everyone to enjoy.

There's always something happening on Bidston Hill, and we'd love for you to be part of it. Keep an eye on our events page to see what's coming up – and we hope to see you soon.

Warm regards,

*Chris Langton*

*Chair, Friends of Bidston Hill*



**The mark of a quality park or green space. Given in recognition of achieving the national standard for parks and green spaces.**



## **Green Flag Status**

We are pleased to report that Bidston Hill continues to maintain Green Flag status, the mark of a quality park or green space.

Given in recognition of achieving the national standard for parks and green spaces.

Much of the credit for Bidston Hill's continued Green Flag status goes to our dedicated Friday Group who work tirelessly throughout the year - whatever the weather! It is their commitment and love for the Hill that makes it possible for us all to enjoy this wonderful conservation area in every season.

If you'd like to get involved, we'd love to hear from you!

Email: [info@bidstonhill.org.uk](mailto:info@bidstonhill.org.uk)

Call: Simon on 07801 263537

Or simply come along to the Tam O'Shanter Farm café area for 09:45am any Friday morning to lend a hand with practical tasks on the Hill.

All are welcome - just wear suitable clothing and footwear for the weather.

## **Events on the Hill**

### **Windmill Open days:**

The windmill is open to the public from 10 till 12pm on the first Saturday of each month. The next openings will be in April and May 2026. Members of our 'Friday Group' volunteers also open the windmill for visits most Fridays throughout the summer months.

For more details on windmill open days and other events on Bidston Hill, please visit our events calendar [www.bidstonlighthouse.org.uk/events](http://www.bidstonlighthouse.org.uk/events).





## Bidston Observatory

2025 marks the sixth year Bidston Observatory Artistic Research Centre has been open and we are thrilled to see our year-on-year visitor numbers steadily increase. We have had a great mix of local, national and international artists, musicians, academics, researchers and creatives stay at the Observatory alongside the introduction of the Observatory Monthly Tours for which we have taken over 1000 visitors around on guided tours of the building.

We are also in the process of applying for a license to hold a couple of weddings per year at the Observatory and are doing a Christmas Dinners Fund Raiser in December.

The building continues to demand a lot of maintenance work but this years biggest job was the installation of secondary glazing on the first floor which has dramatically improved heat retention which hopefully should bring down the heating bills a bit!

In 2026 we look forward to hosting Wyrd Wyreal, a music festival featuring local artists and performers as well as continuing the public tours.

We'll update our Facebook page with upcoming events, hope to see you here soon!

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## Bidston Lighthouse

In 2025, the lighthouse opened to the public on the second Saturday of each month from April through August, and once more in October, running three tours each day. We also ran a number of private tours for local history, photography and walking groups.

Next year's programme will be announced in March 2026 - check the events page on the Bidston Lighthouse website then.

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## Ranger's Report

Steady progress has been made since last Christmas on the area along the path to the Observatory, removing encroaching gorse, silver birch and bramble, opening up the view to the Observatory and across to Liverpool. The area below this has been cleared of gorse and silver birch to manage the area for common lizards and to open up the view to Liverpool.

During the summer months, the volunteers have worked on the area to the north of the lighthouse removing invasive silver birch, gorse, sycamore and balsam. When it was hot we thinned out holly in the woodland near the car park, increasing the light to get to the woodland floor.

I have also refurbished and replaced the QR codes, for the Heritage Trail, on all of the posts.







The volunteers opened the Windmill on Fridays throughout the summer, with a variation on the number of visitors. I have added to the interpretation material in the windmill including, a dinosaur footprint, photographs, fossil casts and old tools. Hopefully there will be some more additions in the new year.

In past few weeks we have worked removing scrub on the South heath near the Witches pond and creating more wetland areas by linking up water filled pools.

### Footpath Route Maintenance

Several locations of work, ongoing on King Georges Way.

A big thanks again to all the volunteers for their hard work on the hill over the past year in gaining the Green Flag award.



*Progress on the "Witches Pond" area to remove gorse and birch, and to improve the management of the wet areas*

**Here's to another year of work conserving Bidston Hill.**

**Thanks to everyone**

**Neil Mutch**

***Ranger, Bidston Hill***

## Membership Renewals

Membership for the Friends of Bidston Hill is due for renewal on 1st January 2026 for existing members. The annual fee remains £5 per household.

If you haven't renewed yet, please do so using the form below.

You can also pay by cheque, (made payable to Friends of Bidston Hill), or by bank transfer using the details below:

**Account Number: 71507958**

**Sort Code: 40-10-26**

Please include your name as the payment reference so we can match your payment correctly.

### New members:

Kindly use the form below when joining, as we need your home and email address for our records and future correspondence.

The £5 membership fee covers you and all members of your family living at the same address for 12 months from the 1st January each year. New members joining after the 1st August will not be due to renew until January of the following year.

Privacy notice. We keep contact details for one person in each family, in order to send you things like newsletters, notices of meetings and renewal reminders. We retain this information for 18 months following the expiry of your membership. We will not pass on your details to anyone else.

Name: .....

Address: .....

.....

.....

Tel (optional): .....

Email: .....

Date: .....

We prefer to contact you by email. Please tick this box only if you require us to contact you by post instead. ☐

I am paying the £5 membership fee by:

- ☐ Cash
- ☐ Cheque payable to "Friends of Bidston Hill"
- ☐ Bank transfer\*
- ☐ Standing order\*

*\* Payments by bank transfer or standing order should use sort code 40-10-26 (HSBC), account number 71507958. Please provide your surname as reference if possible.*

**Please send this form to:**

**The Treasurer, Friends of Bidston Hill  
4 Kingsmead Road South  
Oxton  
CH43 6TA**



**Friends of  
Bidston Hill**