

Friends of White Rock Annual Report 2016/2017

5 April 2017

Activities and achievements (and setback) are listed in no particular order.

- New volunteers have joined the Friends and made an impact on research and physical work.
- White Rock Industrial Heritage Park footpaths cleared and made accessible.
- New research on bricks, ramp building, railway lines, and several other projects.
- Richard Burton Archive training and forward research plans.
- Thirty plus White Rock and White Rock Ferry talks to various groups.
- Several guided tours of White Rock.
- A Friend is also a Hafod-Morfa tour guide.
- Hafod-Morfa Art in the Community Day.
- Hafod-Morfa litter picks.
- Membership of Friends of Hafod-Morfa committee.
- White Rock Ferry book sales - over 750 printed, two editions and four printings. This has been an important contribution to Friends' funds.
- B&Q chain saw donation, training being sourced.
- Interpretation board grant from Oakdale.
- Forthcoming West Country research and weekend visit.
- Christmas lunch.
- Kilvey Hill Volunteers joint activities.
- Logo design by Graham Morse – paperwork, web site, polo and t-shirts.
- Summer bash.
- Kilvey Hill expedition to find the upper engine house – successful.
- Walk up the incline on Kilvey Hill planned.
- Welsh Wildlife Trust bat walk.
- Cheon Pyo Lee artist residency at Hafod-Morfa and White Rock.
- Morriston Heritage Trail.
- Wren Landfill funding bid unsuccessful. Next we will try the Heritage Lottery Fund.
- Swansea Bay Inland Waterways Partnership stakeholder.
- Cadw and Keep Wales Tidy site surveys and advisory documents.
- Japanese Knotweed treated (cut and inject) by the Friends under Keep Wales Tidy supervision. Most of the infestations treated have not reappeared (so far).
- Possible designation of the Tump as a Site of Special Scientific interest (May update – Natural Resources Wales are to designate a corridor from White Rock to Llansamlet as an SSSI) .
- Drone photography ongoing.
- Time Team White Rock programme reviewed.
- Contributed White Rock section to Swansea Community Boat Trust's Lower Swansea Valley guide leaflet.
- Three Cardy Swansea Valley videos from the 1960s on YouTube.

- The project originally started with a successful bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund by the Swansea Branch of the Historical Association for a £10k grant to develop a digital trails app. This was completed. The Friends grew out of this project as a heritage and conservation organisation.
- Competitive bid for Swansea University Software Engineering and MSc projects on the digital trails apps. Two teams of engineers (seven students) and one scientist produced different versions.
- Local and Family History Fair (Historical Association) at the National Waterfront Museum.
- Six litter picks / clearance with Keep Wales Tidy, Geocachers and Swansea Canal Society.
- Active members of Friends of Swansea Parks Forum.
- Digital Heritage Workshop (Swansea University, 11/12 April 2017).
- The Friends of White Rock are one of two organisations being studied by French anthropology student Sara Rojon for her PhD. Her thesis is due for completion in 2017.
- Website www.friendsofwhiterock.org.uk – 23,000 views.
- New PR Officer has set up social media – Facebook and Twitter.
- The Great Workhouse and its surrounds were cleared of invasive and damaging vegetation over the summer of 2016, making it and the covered section of the Smith Canal accessible on foot and visible from the river and Hafod-Morfa.

Setback – a homeless couple have been camping at White Rock for nine months at the time of writing, rendering the Great Workhouse and the covered section of the Smith Canal inaccessible because of human and other waste. They have recently brought a very large caravan into the Park. The Friends are working with the Parks Department, Cadw, Keep Wales Tidy and local councillors to resolve the situation and reopen this part of the Park.