



# Lure of outdoors sees kids' visits to beauty spot jump by 50 per cent





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By **DAN NEWBOULD**

News Reporter

A BEAUTY spot near Tamworth has seen its child visitor numbers rise by more than 50 per cent to become one of the most important local educational resources.

Alvecote Woods had no fewer than 356 visits this year, nearly quadrupling in size since 2017 and a more than double percentage rise compared to last year.

It is the continuation of a dream of the owners.

Owner Stephen Briggs said: "I believe we can now say that Alvecote Wood is one of the most important local educational resources for teaching children as well as the wider public about the environment and especially ancient woodlands and their need for management.

"December 17 was the last of the school visits to Alvecote Wood for this year, with another 34 children coming in a coach that morning.

"Our grand total this year was a brilliant 303 children coming to the woods. Some children came



Alvecote Woods school visit

twice, making a grand total of child visits of 356. Last year's total was 225 child visits, so we have increased by 58 per cent. 2017's total was 90 children, so we have almost quadrupled in two years. This is excellent!

"My wife and I had a dream that we would engage with local children when we started 12 years ago.

Very sadly, Sarah passed away in April 2018 but I am certain she would be delighted with this progress toward our dream, as am I.

"The Royal Forestry Society (RFS) and their Teaching Trees programme has been crucial in increasing the opportunities for school children to come to the woods and to learn more about

the natural environment. I continue to be passionate about this project and hope to continue expanding our involvement with the RFS.

"All this demonstrates that it continues to be crucial that the woods is protected in the face of the proposed 1,540-house development along Robey's Lane. I am



continuing to push for appropriate support so we can continue as a precious local wildlife habitat and to offer such a valuable local resource for the community.

"If any readers are involved in a local school, or know someone that is, please feel free to make contact to see if we can add more groups to the list.

"There is more information on our web site: <http://www.alvecote-wood.co.uk> and on Facebook @ AlvecoteWood."