

# Gunton Woodland Community Project

## NEWSLETTER

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April/May/June/July 2022



The Queen's Oak 2022

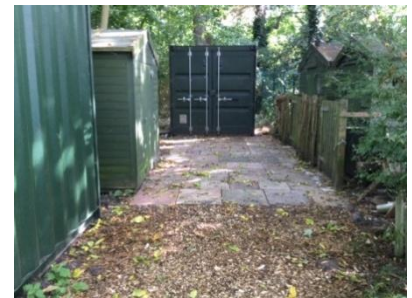
### A Message from the Chairman (David Briggs)

Hello to all our members and friends.

The Work parties have continued very well but with reduced attendances. The seasonal jobs have continued with WPs at a level of sufficient numbers to be up to date with all the jobs in the wood. With the weather now at the peak of summer the temperatures have increased to record highs. So watering the newly planted trees has been a regular job for us all.

The school came out to do their annual pond dipping but were somewhat disappointed with the number of mini beasties that they caught. This was because of the drought. It was still an enjoyment for them to be out in the woodland though.

The new container was installed and the area between the sheds had paving slabs laid to for a hard working area. We nicknamed this the Plaza. We are now fitting out a shadow board for all our new tools. This will help us keep track of them. The machines have been serviced ready for the meadows to be cut when the wild flowers and orchids have finished. This will be over the next few months depending on the weather. The ditch to the east of the wood is in need of work hopefully to be done before the winter rains.



The AGM was held for the first time in 2 years. The speaker, Mr Ivan Bunn, gave an excellent talk on "The History of Gunton" with illustrations, which brought back fond memories, particularly for those of us who are local to the area."

The Committee were re-appointed as there were no new nominations for standing for any of the positions. The accounts were approved and we are in good shape for the foreseeable future.

The Day trip to the End of the Pier Show at Cromer was fully subscribed and was enjoyed by all that managed to see it. See below about events over the next few months.

We welcomed some new members to the group. It is always good to see some new faces working in the wood.

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### Events. Rosemary Briggs.

There will be a Bingo, Fish and Chip evening at St Benedict's Church Hall on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> September at 7.00 for 7.15 pm. Tickets are available from Rosemary Briggs priced at £10.00 each. If you are interested please contact Rosemary on 01502 515944 or any committee member. Tickets are limited so are sold on a First come First served basis. Raffle prizes donated will be most welcome.

Snape Christmas Show this year will be Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> December for the afternoon show. Tickets which include the show and coach travel are priced at £35.00

Again if you are interested please contact Rosemary on 01502515944.

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### What to look out for - by Janet Field

“A few months ago we had a severe spell of exceptionally strong gales which caused the loss of many of our much loved trees. Consequently we then planted many replacements. More recently, because of the prolonged drought, we had to water our newest companions before they succumbed to the lack of rain. Climate change is a rising concern for us all. Anyone who recently bought wood or even tried to purchase a shed will know that it will have increased in price or become temporarily unobtainable.

Woods and forests worldwide face bulldozers, beetle attacks, heat and drought and the most intense wildfires. What is even more serious is the loss, not only of the trees, but all the creatures and flora which are unable to run or fly away from the swiftly encroaching flames.

We humans need to plant more trees to help counter these unfortunate instances and particularly make a real effort to reach net-zero carbon emissions by 2050, something which doesn't look likely at the present time. However, enjoy the rest of the summer, walk in Gunton Wood, have a picnic, find the shade, listen to the birdsong, make sure your dog has a drink; the children have a great time and please take your rubbish home. We are lucky to have this important green space here so please use it sensibly.”



Watering our newly planted trees using the tractor to transport water to them.

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### Nature Notes Fascinating Fungi (Barry Shimmield)

Although they have always been with us scientists are only now beginning to appreciate the crucial role that fungi plays in the world's ecosystem without which we would not survive long on planet Earth. They now enjoy their own classification as a “kingdom” and, strangely enough, are more closely aligned to the animal rather than the plant kingdoms.

They can be divided into different groups. Some are waste recyclers, beneficial to the environment as they are kept busy breaking down dead wood. Some are killers, such as the dreaded Honey Fungus which can destroy its host with rapidly growing black tentacles. Others are absolutely critical to woodland life. Their tiny thread like roots can only be seen with a microscope, but there can be as much as 100 metres of them in one gram of soil. They make close contact with the roots of trees from which they collect sugars to sustain themselves and, in exchange, transfer nutrients from the soil to the tree roots thus enabling the trees to survive. Without fungi, the world's forests would soon collapse.

Just 69,000 species of fungi out of an estimated worldwide population of 1.6 million have so far been identified and documented. Here are pictures of a few of the different forms that we have photographed in Gunton and Foxburrow Woods.



Liberty-cap



Artist's fungus



Puffball



Coral fungus



Redhead Roundhead



Shaggy Ink-cap

Five years ago we were concerned to see a virile cluster of Honey Fungus on our majestic beech tree in Foxburrow Wood, known as the ‘Robin Hood’ tree. Pictured today, it appears that the threat to the tree has been resisted so far, but we will have to wait until October / November to be sure that the fungus has not returned.



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Edited by Janet Field

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