

David Briggs - *Chairman*  
65 Stubbs Wood  
Lowestoft  
Suffolk NR32 4TA  
Tel. 01502-515944

## *Gunton Woodland Community Project*

# **NEWSLETTER**

Peter Smith - *Secretary*  
2 Stimpson Close  
Lowestoft  
NR32 4WH  
01502-733149

Andrew Bretton - *Vice Chairman*  
& *Treasurer*  
25 Sutherland Drive  
Lowestoft  
NR32 4LP  
01502-513709

*January, February, March 2021*



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

Hello to all members and friends.

We now find ourselves coming to the end of Lockdown 3.

I think it has been harder than the previous restrictions due to it being winter and the cold weather that prevented some of us from taking walks outside.

There has been a great increase in the visitors to our lovely wood. So much so it took its toll on the side footpaths.

Fortunately we were able to give them a heavy top up of chippings just before we were stopped working.

We have not been able to have any more chippings delivered but the paths have recovered due to a little dry



spell that followed the snow.

The spring flowers are now in full bloom. The Aconites beat the snow drops this year and it is one of the best years ever for the snowdrops. They normally battle for 1<sup>st</sup> place between each other.

A small work party was held to fell some of the sycamores that had succumbed to sooty bark disease.

Also after one of the storms 4 trees toppled and blocked the paths. So these were quickly removed.

Waveney Norse came to the wood on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> March to cut down the remaining large trees listed in the September inspection.

Pleasure Wood Hills asked us if we could do some work for them so a team of 4 - 2 x 2s, went to the park and cut some branches from trees that were overhanging the little train track within the park.

We are now able to resume limited work parties and our first was on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> March where we were able to plant out some of our trees from the nursery.

Councillor Keith Patience will be along to see what we were doing with the new wood stakes purchased with a donation from his Locality Budget. Trees were planted throughout the wood to replace those that were either lost in the storms or had to be felled for safety reasons.

There will be more limited work parties and they will be announced each week inviting volunteers to join in.

We hope for this latest Lock Down to be fully lifted soon then WPs can be resumed.

Best wishes to you all and remain safe and hope to see you all soon

David

---

### **Events. Rosemary Briggs.**

Unfortunately there will be no trip away this year. But it is hoped to plan a day trip for us to enjoy later in the year.

The details will be announced when we can be sure that it will be able to go ahead.

---

## AGM.

Again this year it will not be possible to hold our usual AGM because of Covid Restrictions. However the existing committee is willing to stand again.

Chairman - David Briggs,  
Vice Chairman Andrew Bretton.  
Secretary Peter Smith.  
Treasurer Andrew Bretton.  
Merchandise / Events Rosemary Briggs.  
Committee Member Janet Field.  
Committee Member Colin Fitt.

So if there is any member who wishes to stand for any of the positions on the committee then please send a nomination by 9<sup>th</sup> April 2021 at the latest.

If there are any objections to the above proposal please respond by email to the Chairman by 9<sup>th</sup> April 2021.

**Please send an email or telephone to approve or not to approve.**

Email [briggs.65@btinternet.com](mailto:briggs.65@btinternet.com). Tel 01502 515944

Thank you Your GWCP Committee.

---

## What to look out for - by Janet Field

“There are many non-native species in the UK now, notably the grey squirrel and pheasant. However if you are quiet when visiting Gunton Woods you might be lucky enough to catch a glimpse of a Chinese Muntjac deer which our work parties often see whilst working there. The Muntjac is small, stocky and secretive and was introduced to Woburn Park in Bedfordshire at the beginning of the 20th century. Over 40,000 now live here with the majority of them in the south east of England. It is the smallest deer in Britain and is sometimes called the barking deer or Reeves’ Muntjac, named after John Russell Reeves a British naturalist who noted them whilst living in China.



The deer are of concern to the Wildlife Trusts because of their impact on ground flora in woodlands. Muntjac eat shrubs, shoots, berries, herbs, fungi and nuts. They have a particular liking for the berries on some of the trees and shrubs in the adjoining Burial Park. These deer have no natural predators and as the females can reach maturity in their first year and then mate it seems likely their succession is assured. However there is always the possibility of culling.

Now a special pat on the back for our fearless firefighters. Receiving a call from a neighbour they promptly scooped up a wayward Muntjac from the concerned neighbour’s garden and transported it to Gunton Woods where, hopefully it will be both grateful and safe.”

---

## Nature Notes *A Very Tight Fit?* (Barry Shimmield)



If I was asked to describe my most unforgettable “once-seen-never-forgotten” memories, one of them would have to be my first sighting of the nest of a long tailed tit. It was a good many years ago when I was trimming a young yew tree just beside the entrance gate to Gunton St Peter’s Church. At that time the yew was just a dense bush about 5 feet high and there, right in its centre, was the nest, about the size of a large grapefruit, covered in lichen with a small hole near the top. Now an adult long tailed tit is about 14 cm long, half of which is its tail, but this was about 10 cm wide on the outside. Since the inside of the nest is lined with more than 2000 feathers you can imagine how snug it must have been at night with Mum, Dad and perhaps 8 or 10 babies. I would have loved to have been the ornithologist who set up an observation camera to record the emergence of the parents in the morning. Apparently their tails were distinctly curved !!



nest

Web : [www.guntonwoodland.org.uk](http://www.guntonwoodland.org.uk)

Edited by Janet Field

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

Sponsored by Pleasurewood Hills

