

Gunton Woodland Community Project **NEWSLETTER**



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July – Sept 2019

Gunton Wood by Andrew Bretton



Spring moved into the height of summer and the cycle of jobs in the woods changes and new things arrive while others depart.

In mid July our new tractor arrived and was proudly shown off to the group by David, this was made possible by a kind grant from Adnams brewery. Our old and very worn out tractor departed soon after, having served us well for many years.

The ladies were kept busy in the B&B area making changes and planting out new plants as well as 3 sessions clearing the ditch. Some of the men spent time clearing the pond of weed, this was Ivor's chance to try to fall in the pond and as usual he did not disappoint, just stopping before his feet entered the water.

The replacement of path edging seems to be a never ending job but the men who choose to do this have now got a good system going and are making excellent progress. They have used nearly all the logs from Pleasurewood hills which were bought up to the woods in the spring.

As August arrived it was all hands on deck down in Moore's Lane to start the annual mowing of the meadow. This task took 3 weeks to complete but was made a little easier with the use of our new brush cutter as well as our mowers. After the grass had been left so the seeds could fall back into the ground the grass was removed and put on the top of hedges and the newly built super sized bug house in the field behind Moore's Lane.



One Thursday a dog walker talked to one of our work party and mentioned the vandalised bird tables. He asked if he could get a friend to make some replacements. After a few days 4 lovely crafted bird tables appeared as if by magic. We thank those people for their kind help with these.

At the end of September a big white lorry arrived at the gates on Gunton Church Lane with our new green container, another generous grant from our local councillors for storing our newly purchased tractor and tools. This was unloaded just inside the gates and has been fitted out by Colin and his crew and by the time you read this news letter the container should be in place next to our other sheds .

So as summer gives way to shorter days, the jobs in the woods move with it. Now is the time for putting more chippings down on the paths and we will soon start looking at the bird boxes to see what has been used and what needs repairing, but the one thing that never changes each

week, we always find time to finish with a cuppa and cakes.

Look out for by Janet Field

About ten or eleven years ago we designed our calendar around food recipes donated by members of our group. For the 2020 calendar we thought it might be a good idea to repeat the process. However this time it was decided to base the recipes on things to be found in Gunton wood (with other ingredients added of course). It was encouraging to receive some from our male cooks together with existing work party members and also those who have now retired from GWCP. Interestingly the origin of the word "Calendar" comes from the Latin "Kalendarium" which was a money-lender's account book. The Roman term arose from the Latin "Kalendae", known as Calends, which was the first day of the month when payments were due."



**Your payments will be £6 per copy. If you wish to purchase any contact Rosemary Briggs on 01502 515944
The calendars are available now.**

Events

July day trip to the Vicarage Gardens.

On July 11th a full coach set off to The Vicarage Gardens in East Ruston. Lunch had been arranged at the Butchers Arms, but we arrived before our allotted time and the pub was still closed. We went around to the back door and the staff were surprised to see us early. However, a shout from the Landlady “All Hands on Deck” and the front door was quickly opened for us. We were served drinks which we took into the sunny garden, before we were ushered into the dining room to be served an excellent lunch.

The journey on to the Vicarage Gardens took only a few minutes. The gardens were delightful with plenty for us to see and enjoy as we walked around. Time for a cup of tea was soon upon us and we managed to get into the cafe just in time to miss a shower of rain.

The day trip was enjoyed by all and the weather was kind to us with a mainly sunny day.



Big Red Bus Trip to Aldeburgh – Sunday July 28th – free.

Unfortunately this had to be cancelled due to the weather and then for our 2nd attempt it was due to unforeseen circumstances.

Future Events

Bingo, Fish & Chips evening - Friday 4th Oct 2019 - £9 pp. - Now full.

Snape Christmas Show – Saturday 7th December, 2019 - £27 pp. - Now full.

Holiday May 2020 – Bournemouth, Fri 8th to Mon 11th May 2020. There are one or two places left.

If you are interested in any of the above events please contact Rosemary or David by phone on 01502-515944 or by email to info@guntonwoodland.org.uk. More details and flyers are available on our website - www.guntonwoodland.org.uk
For all the above, work party members have priority. Afterwards other GWCP members will be booked on a “first come first served” basis.

Nature Notes by Barry Shimmield

Wood Pigeons and Windows

Bang! What was that? There in the centre of the window was the perfect outline of pigeon wings. I could count the individual feathers. And there was the pigeon, on the grass, shaking its head, wondering how it could be so stupid as to mistake the reflection of the sky in the window for the real thing. Fortunately, after a minute or so, it took off apparently none the worse. But what makes that picture on the glass? It's feather down. Looking like talcum powder, it comes from those special feathers that wood pigeons have which are called down feathers. Because pigeons (and owls and hawks) have no oil producing preen gland they rely on their down feathers to gradually disintegrate, forming a waxy dust which the bird uses to preen its outer feathers to keep them waterproof. So maybe they aren't quite as stupid as I thought?



Edited by Janet Field

Web : www.guntonwoodland.org.uk

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