

## Gunton Woodland Community Project

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# NEWSLETTER

Apr – Jun 2019

### Gunton Wood

Our workers have spent many hours felling tall conifer trees at Pleasurewood Hills. The resultant logs are being used for path edging. Old decaying path edging has been removed to a new habitat in Moore's Lane. The ladies have been clearing debris from the ditch - a job which always takes several Thursday morning sessions. The bottom end of the ditch near PwH often gets blocked - more work for the mudlarks!

Corn cockle sown and yellow rattle have been planted in the B&B area and cowslips, grown from seed, put into Moore's Lane. The annual Spanish bluebell cull has taken place and daffodils dead headed. Our tree nursery has had a make over and the footpath inside was cleaned and re-laid. Hawthorn, hazel and blackthorn were dug in along the school fence replacing whips which didn't withstand the drought.



Donations received have enabled us to buy new tools including shears, loppers, secateurs, a pole saw and brush cutter. The latter will be a great help when our wildflower meadow is cut and raked in the autumn. Adnams donated towards the purchase of a secondhand tractor, the old one, having been over-worked, is now ready for the knacker's yard. Two sisters visited us at coffee break one Thursday and gave us a cheque for £185 in memory of their parents who frequently enjoyed walking through the wood.

### Foxburrow Wood

Work in Foxburrow has involved tackling Himalayan Balsam which looks pretty when in flower but is an invasive species and difficult to eradicate. Muddy boardwalks have been swept clean, some of the ditch has been attacked and damaged fence along the A47 has been repaired. Various tasks outstanding include digging up brambles to enable the bluebells to give a good show next year. Sadly during the half-term break the Suffolk Wildlife Trust notice board was torn down.

### Nature Notes ..... A Butterfly Bonanza !

Just occasionally you can be lucky enough to witness an event in the natural world that you will never forget. This happened to us just a few days ago when we were standing in our front garden. In recent years our small lawn has been taken over in increasing numbers by a tiny, pretty pale blue flower which we think is the Blue Star Creeper (*Isotoma fluviatilis*). Always a magnet for bees, we were astonished to find that it was covered by a bevy of beautiful **Painted Ladies (*Vanessa cardui*)**. We counted more than 30 in a patch less than 2 metres across. They were a little camera shy so it was not possible to catch the crowd but they persisted all day in hoovering up the sweet nectar from the stars. The Painted Lady is known for spectacular migration patterns with vast numbers capable of flying 2000 miles at heights that make them invisible from the ground. These would have come from Southern Europe or North Africa. They will produce their first brood in August and will not survive a cold UK Winter. But fortunately, more will arrive next year. Barry and Val Shimmield



## Social Events

### **Gunton Park Residents Spring Litter Pick – Saturday April 13th 2019**

On the morning of Saturday 13th April GPRA organised the annual Spring Litter Pick. Over 20 people turned out and collected many bags of rubbish before enjoying refreshments supplied by Sally Dockree and Sandra Rees. The weather stayed dry and mostly sunny.



### **22nd AGM – Wednesday April 17th 2019**

Thirty-nine members and friends attended our 22nd AGM at St Benedict's church. The guest speaker Edwina Beaumont gave a very interesting and informative talk with slides, entitled "Local Biodiversity".

John Dickerson stood down from the committee but will, for now, continue as our Website Manager. However, the rest of the committee were all re-elected and Colin Fitt was welcomed onto the committee. David thanked John for his work on the committee and presented him with a personal thank-you gift and card.

### **Derbyshire – Friday May 24th to Monday May 27th 2019**

"46 members and friends set off with Belle coaches at 8.15am on Friday 24th May from Gunton Church Lane. Our first comfort stop was at Kings Lynn where we had coffee. We then set off to our next stop which was sunny Lincoln where we were dropped off at the Cathedral. Unfortunately, it was covered in scaffold for major renovations but nearby there were plenty of little shops and pubs to enjoy. We then journeyed on to our hotel where we were booked in for 3 nights.

The next day the sun shone and we went to the Tramways Museum. There was a special event on – "By The Seaside". There were trams from all over the world and we had unlimited access to the rides throughout our stay – excellent! We then took a short drive to Bakewell which is a delightful little town with lots of shops, pubs and cafes.

The next day, Sunday, was our trip to Kedleston Hall where we were met by our guide who split us into 2 groups. We were delighted by an excellent account of the history of this little gem. The weather turned for the worse and although we were fortunate to be inside, the majority of the group were pleased to return to our hotel early.

On Monday we packed ready for the journey home then set off for a 90 minute river cruise on the Trent. We decided not to go into Nottingham but drive on to Stamford which is an old fashioned market town. The whole town, built from local stone, is well preserved with shops and eateries. We arrived home safe at about 6.30 pm." – David Briggs



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## Future Events –

Day Trip to East Ruston Gardens & Butcher's Arms – Thursday 11th July 2019 - £29 pp.

Big Red Bus Trip to Aldeburgh – Sunday July 28<sup>th</sup> – free.

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

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

*Proposed Holiday May 2020 – Bournemouth, Fri 8<sup>th</sup> to Mon 11<sup>th</sup> May 2020.*

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](mailto:info@guntonwoodland.org.uk). More details and flyers are available on our website - [www.guntonwoodland.org.uk](http://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.

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## ..... and finally

1. A request from our chairman "Please keep your eyes open for any vandalism in the wood and if you see any please report it".
2. One of our workparty members, John Weaver, has just passed his chainsaw cross-cutting course which means our insurance will now cover him to cut wood that is already on the ground. We now have 3 members trained to this level and 1 trained to a higher level allowing him to cut down trees. Congratulations John.

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*Edited by John Dickerson & Janet Field*

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

*Sponsored by Pleasurewood Hills*

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