

Gunton Woodland Community Project **NEWSLETTER**

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January/February /March 2022

A Message from the Chairman (David Briggs)

Greetings to all members and friends.

The Work Parties have been extremely busy in the wood. Turn out has increased with some new members over the last few months and also due to attendees having had all their Covid jabs. We have been able to attend to all the seasonal jobs in both Gunton and Foxburrow woods, including felling the trees from the tree inspection and finishing the Foxburrow Wood board walks. We also cleared the damage done to the trees from the storms in both woods and chipped all the paths throughout Gunton Wood. We missed clearing the bird boxes because of weather constraints, but we are repairing or replacing some of the damaged boxes. A tree was planted by 2 of our local Councillors to mark the 70th Jubilee of HM Queen Elizabeth 2nd



The AGM will be held this year on Wednesday 6th April at 7.00 pm for 7.30pm at St Benedict's Church.

The Speaker will be Mr Ivan Bunn who will give an illustrated talk on the History of Gunton.

The existing Committee are willing to stand once again. But if you would like to stand for a place on the committee nominations should be sent to the Secretary by 4th April please.

Events. Rosemary Briggs.

We have been able to organise a day trip to Cromer for a visit to the End of The Pier Show. This has been booked for Friday 15th July, tickets are £34 each. The coach will leave Gunton Church Lane at 10am to be in Cromer for about 11.30 am. There will be time to walk round Cromer and for you to have something to eat before the show at 14.30 pm. We leave Cromer immediately after the show to return home. Numbers are limited so book early to avoid disappointment. If you are interested please phone Rosemary on 01502 515944.

What to look out for - by Janet Field

Mrs. Tiggy-Winkle like many others in our natural world is facing a real struggle to survive. The reduction in hedgehog numbers in East Anglia is around 75% since 2000. A combination of climate change, decline in insect numbers plus other food sources such as snails, frogs, birds eggs, mushrooms and berries all contribute. New house building and motorways also have an effect.

Mowers and strimmers are also dangerous to hedgehogs particularly as they hide away unseen in nettles and dense undergrowth till dusk, when they emerge in search of food. However the writer observed a fascinating moment one morning when a sleepy hedgehog ambled across the lawn in front of seven greylag geese, who immediately stopped feeding and curiously watched as the hedgehog made it safely to the sanctity of a neighbour's garden.

So how can we help these little creatures - we can make them a hibernacula to sleep away their hibernation, usually end of October to March. We can fill their new home with dry leaves and put out cat or dog food and water for them in the evening when they are awake. But not cow's milk as it makes them ill.

We could also build a pile of logs in a quiet corner. This has the dual purpose of giving a potential home for their hibernation and providing a natural food source by way of beetles. And make sure you have a hole in your hedge or fence to enable the hedgehog to pass through on its nightly foray."

Nature Notes Frogspawn - by Barry Shimmield



It's the beginning of March, and, regular as clockwork, a pair of frogs has been busy in my garden pond. Unfortunately I never actually catch them in the act ! It probably happens quite early in the morning and, in any event, perhaps I shouldn't intrude on what is really a very private affair. The male climbs onto the back of the female, puts his arms around her as he clasps her underneath and in an embrace called **amplexus**, he fertilises the spawn as she produces it. The following day, and for several days after that, they return and add to the clump. There might be as many as two or three thousand eggs in this mass of jelly, not very easy to count. It is a sobering thought that perhaps as few as 5 of those tiny black embryos will actually make it to adulthood. As my solitary shubunkin

goldfish passed away from old age during the Winter, I am hoping that this year, many more tadpoles and froglets will survive to maturity and so help to keep my garden's snail population under control.

Edited by Janet Field

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