

Gunton Woodland Community Project

www.guntonwoodland.org.uk
info@guntonwoodland.org.uk

NEWSLETTER

November – December 2016



Gunton Wood

November and December were mostly about maintenance and leaf clearance.

Several fences were in need of repair, one had been damaged when we had to cut down a dead elm and some had just deteriorated with old age. The fence around the pond also needed strengthening so we used some coppiced hazel which we hope will shoot and create a 'living fence' – keep an eye out in the spring.

The lower end of the ditch, near to PwH had become completely blocked again, with all the autumn leaf-fall, so the ladies spent 2 or 3 Thursdays clearing that. They carted away about 30 barrow loads of leaves!

A new 'leaf-related' task this year was keeping the main path clear. This was very successful, particularly with the help of Barry's leaf blower, and we are pleased that not too much mud has accumulated.

As usual, we have spent a lot of time chipping paths, which is always a nice social activity, with some people filling the barrows and some carting them to the required areas where others clear away leaves and then spread the new chippings. We swap around from time to time, so that we don't have to spend the whole morning doing the same task and we get to work with different people.

We continued the tree inspection work, mainly on Saturdays, cutting down dead, dangerous or dying trees. We also did the final cut for the wild-flower meadow and the B&B area.



Winter Time in Gunton Wood (by MJD):-

It's winter time in Gunton Wood and everything's asleep.
At least that's how it might appear, but just go take a peep.

The busy little Jenny wren will be foraging on the ground.
Now, she wouldn't waste her energy if there were no insects to be found.

And crafty Robin redbreast will be loitering nearby.
Whatever Jenny overlooks won't avoid his watchful eye!

High in the trees a squirrel may be scampering back to his dray,
with nuts that he had buried on a sunny autumn day.

And if you stand still and keep very quiet, you might just catch the sight
of a Muntjac deer out grazing (if he spots you he'll dash off in a fright).

Down below on the frozen ground almost hidden from your sight,
the snowdrops will be shooting. Next month they'll be a delight.

The aconites will also be waiting to appear.
Their pretty yellow flowers will herald the New Year.

Even the Thursday workers still turn up with barrows and rakes.
There's not much work to do right now, but there's always coffee and cakes!

No! Gunton Wood isn't sleeping, it's merely taking a rest.
Getting ready for the springtime, so it can truly be at its best.



Foxburrow Wood

A lot of work has been done in Foxburrow to improve the main path. On Nov.12th while the autumn litter pick was going on, some of the men started clearing overgrowth from the edges of the path. The next two weeks saw the edges being completely cleared and the boardwalks being swept. Then on the morning of Wed. Dec 7th, a gang of men went down to clear mud and start laying 6 tons of 'type 1' stones in the worst areas. The work continued during the Thursday Dec 8th work party and, although it was thought they would have to continue on Friday and Saturday mornings, the job was finished by 10:30 and the men got back to Gunton Wood for coffee with the rest of the workers. A really good job very well done!

We need to thank Waveney Norse for funding the stones for the path and Mr Munnings for lending us the "whacker".
We also had a dead tree come down across the main path but the Saturday gang soon had it cut up and cleared away.



Look Out For – by Janet Field

"What are those lovely little yellow flowers?" Our woodland workers are often asked this question by people walking through the woods. These bright little flowers are Winter Aconites.

They are low growing perennials from clump-forming tubers. The flowers are cup-shaped about 2.5cm across, usually with 6 yellow sepals and a dissected leaf-like bract forming a green ruff beneath each bloom.

Winter Aconites are members of the Buttercup family and can be seen from January to March, round about the same time as Snowdrops. They originate from Southern Europe but have lived in Gunton Wood for many years. It is possible that they may be escapes from when Gunton Old Hall's garden was in existence or from the even earlier Gunton Manor."



Social Events

Gunton Park Community Autumn Litter Pick – Saturday November 12th 2016

Gunton Woodland Community Project and Gunton Park Residents Association held their Autumn Litter Pick on Saturday 12th November 2016. Despite the threatened rain, which held off until our finishing time of 10.30am, 26 members attended and were each given a free raffle ticket for helping.

The Tesco store very kindly donated the raffle prizes and all the refreshments.

Twenty sacks of rubbish were collected over a wide area including Foxburrow Wood, Gunton Wood, Leisure Way and onto the surrounding meadows as far as the disused railway bridge.

We were pleasantly surprised that the amount of litter appeared to have gone down this time, perhaps the message is getting through!



Snape Christmas Show - Saturday December 10th 2016

"54 members and friends travelled to Snape on Saturday 10th December for the annual Christmas Spectacular performed by the Co-op Juniors Theatre Company. The Co-op Juniors ages range from about 5 to 21 years old and run a really professional show.

This year it was their 12th show, The Snow Queen, based on Frozen by Hans Christian Anderson. It seemed a different format this year, more of a Pantomime, which was a little disappointing compared with the shows of previous years.

The costumes were as brilliant as ever with so many changes throughout the show that your mind boggles as to how they manage it.

We enjoyed the visit and I think that we should organise it again for next year. I did wonder if we should give it a miss as this year we were down on numbers but I will try again next year." Thanks to all that came, David.

AGM – Wednesday April 19th 2017

The AGM will once again be at Gunton Primary School, Gainsborough Drive. There will be refreshments at 7pm and the AGM will start at 7.30pm. The guest speaker will be John Holmes, who will give a talk with slides entitled "Lowestoft Then and Now", he is scheduled to start at 8pm.

Cotswolds – Friday May 26th to Monday May 29th 2017

This is now full but we do have a waiting list. A 3 night - 4 day trip to the Cotswolds through Belle Coaches Holidays. Staying at the Best Western Premier Blundston House near Swindon. The cost is £319pp with a single supplement of £45pp.

FOR INTEREST ONLY 2018

Because we had difficulties in booking our first choice hotel for the Cotswolds trip in May 2017, I have already booked a hotel in the Lake District for early May 2018. Could you please let Rosemary know if you are interested. I will then forward details nearer the time. Thanks David.

GWCP 2017 Calendar – just a few left!

The 2017 "Mug Shots" calendar is on sale at £5 with the theme of Suffolk Wildlife Trust nature reserves. Available from Rosemary Briggs – 01502 515944.

Nature Reserve - Ray Adcock, SWT Warden

"During early September Matt cut the open areas on the Reserve and we spent several work parties clearing the cut areas. We had one very enjoyable work party when seven members of Tesco staff joined us. It was a very hot day but they got busy and worked well with our team. Perhaps the best part was when a very large tray of bacon butties and drinks arrived, fresh from the Tesco cafe. We all had our fill of food and we hope that this can be arranged again during 2017. We spent some time on the top pond as it had become choked with burr reed and pond weed during the summer. We cleared the margins of the pond and also the pond weed and some of the burr reed. I am sure the moor hens are finding it more attractive now. Latterly we have concentrated on the paths in the Reserve which have become narrowed by the brambles. We have widened them considerably which should allow more air to the paths and hopefully make them less wet and muddy."

Gunton Warren Project –John Knights, Volunteer Warden.

"Throughout 2016 the monthly work party has worked hard on a variety of tasks, these include extending and repairing the 3 beach enclosures, cutting down and burning the large clump of invasive bamboo, and continuing maintenance on the access paths and entrances. The major project was building an extension to the steps down to the beach near the Holm oak copse. This was successfully completed and has been well used, with good feedback from most people. Thanks to everyone who has helped, and we look forward to more progress in the coming year."

Suffolk Wildlife Trust's Appeal – Matt Gaw, Development Officer

Sir David Attenborough has urged people to get behind Suffolk Wildlife Trust's campaign to raise £1million and create a giant nature reserve for people and wildlife in the Suffolk Broads. The Trust currently has the unprecedented opportunity to buy land flanking the existing nature reserve at Carlton and Oulton Marshes to form 1,000 acres of wildness in the Broads National Park. The new site, which will be called the Suffolk Broads nature reserve, will lead to the creation of a mix of wet habitats that so many nationally rare animals and plants depend on. The Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) has approved the Trust's initial plans for the land purchase, together with proposals to improve the reserve for visitors, and have awarded the Trust a development grant of £246,300 to work on the detailed plans necessary to secure a full grant of £4m for the project. The enthusiasm of the HLF for the new nature reserve has brought the project a step closer and, as a result, the Trust has launched a £1million fundraising campaign towards the land purchase. Sir David Attenborough, President Emeritus of The Wildlife Trusts, said: "England's wildlife is under great and ever growing pressure. It is vital that we restore our land on a landscape scale so that it can support more wild plants and animals. Suffolk Wildlife Trust's ambition to extend Carlton and Oulton Marshes is a unique opportunity to do just this and it has my whole-hearted support. Please help Suffolk Wildlife Trust rescue this precious corner of East Anglia and bring back wildlife in all its splendour. By giving generously you will be investing not just in wildlife but in the happiness and fulfilment of thousands of people now and in the future."

To support the Suffolk Broads appeal visit www.suffolkwildlifetrust.org



Graham Shimmiel 1958-2016

Barry and Val would like to thank everyone who sent messages of condolence after their eldest son Graham lost his hard fought battle against cancer on Christmas Eve. Graham was an oceanographer who spent his life studying climate change and human impact on the seas. He spent his last 8 years at the Bigelow Laboratory for Ocean Sciences in Maine, USA, where there will be a Celebration of his life and work in the Spring. Whenever possible Graham would re-visit Gunton Wood where he had many happy memories since moving from his birthplace in Trinidad to Gunton in 1967. He will be sadly missed by his family and friends.