

Gunton Woodland Community Project

NEWSLETTER

www.guntonwoodland.org.uk
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October - December 2019



MERRY CHRISTMAS EVERYONE

A Message from your Chairman (David Briggs)

Hello everyone.

It has been a busy year and the work parties have been well attended. Thank you to all who have managed to help throughout the year for without you we would not have GWCP.

The last WP of the year will be on - Thursday 19th December and we resume on Thursday 9th January 2020.

We your committee wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Thank you GWCP.

Gunton Wood (Andrew Bretton)

Work fitting out our new container is complete and on Monday 7th Oct the Telehandler from Pleasurewood Hills arrived and within half an hour the container was in place next to our other sheds; this is now shed number 4. A paved area has been laid outside the container and also in front of the wheelbarrow shed.

Checking the 84 bird and bat boxes has been going on for a number of weeks, every box has been cleaned and repaired if damaged. Mark has submitted an in depth review which is available to view on our GWCP site. Other jobs are ongoing these include the path edging, this is where the tractor comes in handy for moving heavy logs, also chipping of the side paths seems to be a never ending job. The ladies continue to plant more trees in the B&B area as well as looking after the nursery.

Now that most of the leaves have fallen another annual job is clearing the main path of dead leaves to avoid a build-up of mud on the path. The leaf blower removes the top layer leaving the mud underneath which has to be removed using stiff brooms; this job is very good for burning a few calories.

The Saturday work parties started again doing jobs that it would not be safe to do on a Thursday when a lot more workers are about. Their tasks include work identified during the annual tree inspection as well as

everyday maintenance. Anglian Water when working on the pipe line was asked by the farmer to make the entrance to the field wider. It was then decided that this entrance was no longer required. So we asked Anglian Water to remove it and the large pipe under it. This was done. Then we organised a work party to clear under the old bridge using a tool that was constructed to clear culverts this has proved very successful and now the ditch is running clear.

Not much stops us getting our coffee and cake on a Thursday but rain stopped play two weeks running in November so we are hoping for a drier spell in December so we can catch up with our outstanding jobs. Mince pies 1st week in December.



Events

The COOP JUNIORS are putting on a performance of Andrew Lloyds -Webber's CATS at Snape in May 2020.

We have been successful in obtaining tickets for a matinee performance on Saturday 23rd May at 2.30 pm. A coach will be leaving Gunton Church Lane at 10.00 am. Taking us to Aldeburgh where, we can spend the morning in the town to enjoy a walk around and have a lunch at leisure before leaving for Snape to enjoy the show.

The cost will be £.29.00. pp .

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 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.

Last Saturday was our trip to the Snape Christmas show by the COOP Juniors. It was a celebration of the last 15 years. 50 members and friends travelled to Snape and enjoyed a delightful show with plenty of songs, dancers and splendid colourful costumes. We have booked for next years show in December 2020.

What to look out for (Janet Field)

We love the trees in Gunton Wood and over the years a few have died but most have flourished.

In January 1999 the first tree, an oak, was planted by Cll. Frank Deveraux Leader of WDC.

The Brownies planted an anniversary oak near 'woodhenge'. The planting hole was dug by their Arkela - a sprightly 90 year old leader. We have put in many whips ourselves and the 1,000th tree, also an oak, was planted by Andrew Wilson-Sutter from Waveney District Council.

The Trafalgar oak-also known as Nelson's oak was set in with some ceremony by the Lowestoft Sea Scouts in 2005 to mark the 200th anniversary of winning the battle of Trafalgar and, sadly, the death of Horatio Nelson. This tree is opposite our coffee break area. The Queen's 60th anniversary tree, a rowan, may be found near the sheds - the result of our raffle won by one of our woodland workers.

We use whips (anything from 18in to 3ft tall trees) purchased from or donated by the Woodland Trust. They are intending to plant one hundred thousand new trees country wide over the next decade to help reduce the impact of climate change. Trees soak-up Co2, help reduce flooding and pollution and nurture wildlife. If you wish to join the fight against climate change go to www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/plant100K. They ask for a donation of £1.50 per tree.



From the picture you will notice a screw embedded in a tree which we had to fell. This screw ruined the chainsaw blade, costing us a replacement blade and loss of a considerable amount of working time. Screws and nails eventually get swallowed by the tree. Consequently chainsaw operators never know when they might lose another blade. In fact, we would like to ask you - please do not put up any notices or plaques on trees using screws or nails. We appreciate the trees as they are, giving shade, shelter, beauty, colour, scents, flowers and berries - just enjoy them!

Nature Notes *The Wood Wide Web* (Barry Shimmield)

Can trees talk? Well they don't use the Queen's English but, it is true that they can and do communicate with each other. How do they do that? They are joined underground by a network of gossamer-fine threads formed by roots and fungi combining to form mycorrhizae. This intricate structure, known as the Wood Wide Web, sustains the trees by transferring nutrients from the soil in exchange for carbon-rich sugars from the trees, a process that has been well understood for some time. But we now know



that the Web does so much more. If a young seedling is struggling under heavy shade messages can pass between surrounding trees to ensure that extra food resources are provided to the patient. Also warnings are sounded if a tree is under insect attack so that neighbouring trees can raise their defences before they too become infected, perhaps by increasing their production of pathogen resistant chemicals. So, in reality, a forest behaves more like a single organism rather than a collection of separate individuals.

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