

# *Gunton Woodland Community Project*

## **NEWSLETTER**

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**APRIL, MAY, JUNE, JULY 2021**



### **A Message from the Chairman (David Briggs)**

Hello to all members and friends.

We now find ourselves coming into better times.

Work Parties were able to continue with restricted numbers. So we have been able to start getting the wood into a reasonable state once again. The weather patterns warmed then rain brought on an enormous growth of all the usual plants, some welcome and some not so welcome. So the WPs set about clearing the sides of paths and the trees and shrubs from being suffocated by the tangle of cleavers



**Girls in hiding**



**Our First WP after lock down**

We had coffee to start with in restricted numbers at No 65, then we were able to have increased numbers so we resumed at the usual coffee stop in the wood. Thank you to all that have returned to help once again in our lovely wood.

We have continued with some of the general maintenance work in both Gunton Wood and nearby Foxburrow Wood. The main task in Fox W was the replacement of the board walks which after 12 years have succumbed to the very wet conditions and have rotted away leaving them very dangerous. A grant from ESCC has made it possible to replace them with a plastic recycled under frame with sleepers fastened down. W Norse kindly donated some bags of type one which we used to put onto the muddy paths.

This work is ongoing, but we have made good progress during these difficult times due to a dedicated team



**Part Section**



**The Team**

The children from Gunton Primary School came out to do their annual pond dipping but unfortunately were not able to use the dipping platform due the wet conditions which once again has rotted the main timbers. This was inspected by the school's safety officer and we decided to pond dip ourselves and bring the mini beasties onto the bank in bowls for the students to inspect. There was an abundance of wild life which showed that our pond is still doing quite well. The dipping platform was reduced in size and can now be used once again.

The fences around the wood have rotted away but due to volunteer numbers they have not been replaced yet. But the fence around the pond has been replaced. The sheds also have had a spruce and clean up.

Best wishes to you all and remain safe and hope to see you all soon

David

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### **Events. Rosemary Briggs.**

Unfortunately there will be no trip away this year. Also no day trips due to travel restrictions on transport.

Hall restrictions will also make it difficult to organise our F&C Bingo once again.

However we were contacted by the Co-op Juniors saying that their Christmas Show at Snape may be able to go ahead on the 4th December for an afternoon show. Rosemary contacted you asking just for interest at this stage.

The details will be announced when we can be sure that it will be able to go ahead.

## AGM.

Again this year it will not be possible to hold our usual AGM because of Covid Restrictions. However the existing committee were willing to stand again.

Chairman - David Briggs,  
Vice Chairman Andrew Bretton.  
Secretary Peter Smith.  
Treasurer Andrew Bretton.  
Merchandise / Events Rosemary Briggs.  
Committee Member Janet Field.  
Committee Member Colin Fitt.

Thank you Your GWCP Committee.

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### What to look out for - by Janet Field

“Dragonflies were amongst the first flying insects appearing on earth. Fossils of dragonfly type insects have been discovered in 350 million years old Carboniferous rocks. Sometimes they are confused with damselflies which are much smaller and with a weaker fluttering flight. Whereas dragonflies keep their wings open at rest damselflies usually close theirs over the top of their body - an easy way to identify the difference! One may also notice how large dragonfly eyes are in relation to the rest of their body.

All dragonflies and damselflies lay their eggs in water, some protecting their eggs by surrounding them with a sticky jelly and others by laying on leaves or stems of aquatic plants. The nymphs hatch after a few days unless the eggs were laid towards the end of summer when the following spring becomes the hatching time.

The nymphs eat moving creatures such as water fleas, insect larvae, tadpoles and even small fish. They develop over a year, then in early summer, climb stems and plant leaves ready for emergence as adults to become the attractive flying insects we know.

The adult dragonflies may live as long as two months but the smaller damselflies maybe only from 2 - 4 weeks.

One fairly rare dragonfly, the Norfolk Hawker, can be seen in East Anglia at Suffolk Wildlife Trust nature reserve, Carlton Marshes, and we have also been fortunate enough to see one here in Gunton woodland sunning itself on a hedge.”



**Norfolk Hawker**

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### Nature Notes *Abseiling Arachnids* (Barry Shimmiel)



*Have you ever watched a spider drop like a stone on the end of a gossamer-fine thread, stop suddenly in mid-air and then, miraculously climb back up at almost the same speed?*

#### **How does it do that?**

Spiders have several pairs of spinnerets, located on their abdomen. Each spinneret has many microscopic spigots and each spigot can produce a single filament of silk, finer than a human hair and many times stronger than an equivalent piece of steel. By varying the chemical composition and which spigots are used the spider can produce different kinds of silk depending on whether it needs to create a drag line or a sticky web, or a blanket to envelop its prey or a balloon to fly some distance in the wind. When it descends, the spider extrudes a single non-sticky dragline which it can stop at will. When it decides to climb it simply *eats* the silk line, at high speed, thus recycling the protein to produce another web later.

*Edited by Janet Field*

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