



## *Gunton Woodland Community Project*

# **NEWSLETTER**

*March – April 2014*



### ***Gunton Wood***



The last two months have mostly been about the annual maintenance work - splitting snowdrops, removing spanish bluebells, pulling sycamore seedlings, alexanders and cleavers. Also, clearing the pond and repairing the surrounding fence. A picnic area seat had to have new legs attached as the old ones had rotted. The main achievement has been the new flight of 28 steps installed at the bridge end of the railway line. This has been a joint effort between the Saturday and Thursday groups. The materials were supplied by Pleasurewood Hills and one of our members.

This year has seen a constantly changing display of woodland flowers - snowdrops, daffodils, primroses and currently masses of bluebells. The AGM on March 19th was well attended yet again. It was agreed that the Bank Accounts for Gunton and Foxburrow Woods would be consolidated into one. Many of our costs apply to both locations and this change will simplify administration and auditing. The night concluded with a short video which is available to view from our website.

Sadly, Martin has decided that he can no longer look after the bird tables. For several years he has put bird food on all the tables in Gunton Wood every day, for which we have been very grateful. We will all miss seeing and chatting with him while on his rounds, and at Thursday morning coffee breaks.

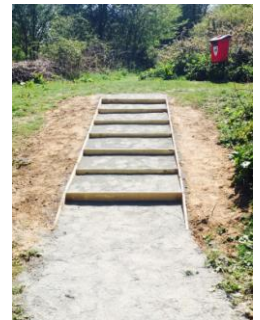


### ***Foxburrow Wood***

The ditch near to Crome Walk is collapsing and although the council has been made aware of this, no work has been done. We've had a good display of wood anemones this year and the usual wonderful display of bluebells. We had a single swan in the woods for a few days but this has moved on to a hopefully more appropriate environment!

### ***Nature Reserve - Ray Adcock, SWT Warden***

"The paths have been very wet during the winter especially at the main entrance and to help this situation a shallow flight of steps have been installed and crushed stone laid at the entrance. Last year's bird survey showed a good range of birds in the reserve and a further survey will take place this summer. The strong winter winds did not cause too much damage but a very large beech tree by the middle pond did unfortunately come down. The area that was cleared at the eastern end of the reserve to vary the age structure of the scrub habitat is growing well and it is hoped will attract more diverse species. Both ponds are rapidly losing water but are looking OK. A moorhen's nest has been destroyed on the top pond but the female is sitting on a new nest. There is a very good show of green winged orchids on the meadow. There is a problem this year with illegal camping on both the meadow and the reserve and the resultant mess which these people leave. Any help in reporting incidents to the police, who are aware of the problem, or myself would be appreciated."



### ***Gunton Woodland Burial Park - Barry Shimmield***

"On 10th April 2014, the Gunton Woodland Burial Trust was given formal charitable status with the Registered Charity Number 1156621. Full details of its Purposes and Public Benefit can be found on the Charity Commission website. Arrangements to receive the first load of hard core on site are proceeding. The farmer has drilled the final crop of Autumn barley and quotations are being developed for the supply of 6000 trees and shrubs for the planting sessions planned in November and January."

### ***Gunton Warren Project - Matt Gooch, SWT Broads Reserves Warden***

"Some new entrances have been installed. A lot of bracken has been cleared and areas scraped ready to allow heathland plants to recolonise the cliff top naturally and in preparation for heather seed to be spread from other heathland sites. Some litter picks have taken place and a vast amount of rubbish has been collected including car tyres, a car seat, microwave oven and all the usual detritus. The volunteer team is really working hard and without their great efforts and enthusiasm we would not have been able to advance this site so well."

## **Social Events**

### ***Whisky Distillery and Dad's Army Experience – Thursday June 12th (still a few places left)***

The coach will leave Gunton Church at 8am to arrive at St. George's distillery for a guided tour starting at 10am and lasting 1 hour. Tea or coffee and a taste of the whisky is included. Afterwards we board the coach for the journey into Thetford. Free time (12 - 2.30) to have lunch (not included) in a place of your choice. Meet at the Dad's Army museum in Crow Lane at 2.30pm for a Private Tour lasting approx. 2Hrs 15Mins. The coach will leave for home at 4.45pm. The cost of the trip £30.00 pp If you are interested please contact John / Mo Dickerson or David / Rosemary Briggs. Payments by cheque to GWCP, by May 19th please.

***Teddy Bear's Fun Day*** – Sadly this will not go ahead this year due to lack of volunteer helpers.

### ***Duxford Airshow – Saturday September 13th (full, waiting list created)***

The coach will leave Gunton Church at 9.15am to arrive at Duxford at 11.00am and we will have a full day at the show to enjoy the delights of the museums and the air display. There are plenty of places to eat or you may also bring your own picnic. The coach will leave for home at 5.45pm. The cost of the trip is £37.50 pp and includes entry to the show and the cost of the coach. If you are interested please contact Rosemary or David Briggs or any committee member. Cheques should be made out to GWCP please. Payment is required by July 31st 2014.

### ***Snape Christmas Show 2014 - Saturday December 13th***

We leave Gunton Church 1pm, arrive at Snape 2pm and we'll have time to have lunch or shop before the show. The Show is based on Peter Pan and will take us to Neverland accompanied by Peter Pan, Tinker Bell, Captain Hook and the Darling Children. We'll leave for home after the show and should arrive by approximately 7.30pm. The cost of the trip is £30.50 pp and includes entry to the show and the cost of the coach. If you are interested please contact Rosemary or David Briggs or any committee member. Cheques should be made out to GWCP please. Payment is required by OCTOBER 1st 2014.

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### ***Spring Litter Pick in association with the Gunton Park Residents Association.***

Sat 12th April 2014 at 9am to 10.30. The weather was kind this year and 37 members attended and were given a free raffle ticket for coming along to the litter pick. The raffle prizes were kindly given by Pleasure Wood Hills and Tesco Store together with the refreshments which included Hot Cross buns. Woody Bear came



along to cheer us on and draw the raffle. Also attending was Cllr Keith Patience who had donated the litter pickers. Over 50 sacks of rubbish were collected over the wide area stretching from the A12 Foxburrow Wood through to Leisure Way and onto the surrounding meadows. It is surprising the amount of litter that accumulates in the course of just a few months.



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## **Nature Notes**

**Dragonfly :** The present-day dragonflies are related to and resemble a genus of extinct insects from approximately 300 million years ago. There are nearly 6,000 known species. They have a maximum speed of 22–34 mph with an average cruising speed of about 10 mph and an adult can fly upward, downward, forward, back, and side to side. Most of their life, two months to five years, is spent as aquatic larvae (nymph) feeding on mosquito larvae or even tadpoles and fish.

When ready to become an adult, the nymph climbs up a reed and the exposure to air causes it to start breathing, the skin splits behind the head and the adult crawls out, pumps up its wings and flies off to feed. This adult stage can last as long as six months. They feed on mosquitoes and other small insects but may themselves be eaten by birds, lizards, frogs, spiders, fish, water bugs, and even other large dragonflies.



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## **Notes :**

We must bring to the attention of our work party volunteers that the terms of our insurance renewal through the TCV Group Policy with Zurich Insurance do restrict the benefits payable to persons aged over 75 years to serious injuries only. There are no age restrictions to the Public Liability cover provided. If anyone would like to have full details of the "small print" please ask any Committee member.

Photos please : we have plenty of 2013 and 2014 photos on the website but we would love some earlier photos. If you have any you would like to share, please email any digital ones or provide us with the developed photo and we can copy it. A note of the approx date and a description would be very useful.

*Edited by John Dickerson*

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