

Gunton Woodland Community Project

www.guntonwoodland.org.uk
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NEWSLETTER



2014 Calendars
Only 6 left!

November 2013 – January 2014

Happy New Year
AGM 2014 – 19th March 2014
7pm for 7.30 start in the hall at Gunton School

Save The Planet And 80p

A big thank you to those that have elected to receive their Newsletter via Email rather than printed copy, you have saved GWCP valuable funds. We had a fantastic response to our appeal, with nearly a third of members (65) opting for an electronic version. If you provide any committee member with your email address or send an email to info@guntonwoodland.org.uk we will make sure you receive an email copy and not a printed copy. You can of course go back to a paper copy if you change your mind.

Gunton Wood



We spent a few days helping the Primary School with some work. Firstly, we cleared quite a large area of brambles to make way for a new path, then cut and levelled the pathway, before edging and chipping. Most of the work was carried out by the ladies, who were very pleased with the results of their labours.

We also helped with the planting of 360 small tree whips. The Woodland Trust had advertised for applications from Community Groups and Schools for free tree packs to plant as wildlife hedging.

We applied for 2 packs one for Gunton Primary School and another for the Project to plant out this autumn. The School has had a new fence erected alongside the playing field on the wood side, so we helped the children to plant one whip each, outside the fence, to create a hedgerow which they hope will encourage wildlife and insects. They seemed to really enjoy themselves, although some of the girls were not too keen on the worms! The trees were heeled in over three days and the photo shows children planting on Children in Need Day.



The main path, which was very muddy, has been scraped off again. We were lucky enough to have the use of a small digger and were given some road planings to put on the cleared path so hopefully the water will drain more easily. We have planted the whips that we received from the Woodland Trust and some small trees from our nursery, along the edges, so the new main path is starting to look more natural.

We had a lot of storm damage to clear up during the last few weeks. The fourth branch to fall off a large oak tree in the wood has been cleared away. This left a split in the main trunk so we will have to keep an eye on it just in case it becomes a hazard. Several small trees came down in the



main wood and at least 4 willows in the wild flower meadow. There were also about 8 trees down on the Pleasurewood Hills path, which had to be cleared out of the way. This has kept the chain-saw gang busy for 2 or 3 weeks. Most of the wood has already been used for path edging and repairing fences that were damaged by falling trees. One of the bird tables also suffered in the storms, but has now been repaired.

The main entrance “Welcome to Gunton Wood” noticeboard, installed in 2002, has sustained damage which was not repairable so we decided a new board was the only option. Mrs Rosewin Read kindly offered to donate funds towards its cost in memory of her late husband Jim who died in May 2011, and on Thursday 9th January after our coffee break, she came along to formally unveil the new board. Rosewin spoke of her many happy memories of walking through Gunton Wood with Jim in their courting days during World War 2 and the fact that the army were there with gun emplacements didn't seem to put them off! In later years Jim was a very keen bird watcher and Gunton Wood was his favourite walk. When GWCP was established Jim and Rosewin became enthusiastic members and they joined us on many of our social outings, those to Keukenhoff and Monet's Garden were particular favourites. The new board has had its map and text updated and the sponsors' names have been changed to Jim and Rosewin Read. It has been mounted in a frame made by Dick Armstrong with a heavy duty protective sheet to guard against further damage. Colin Fitt put together the frame and protective sheet and mounted the board early on Thursday morning, ready for Rosewin to unveil.



Foxburrow Wood



Foxburrow also suffered in the storm, which gave the Saturday gang plenty of heavy work. Some large oak branches came down and at least 2 trees blocked pathways, but these have now been removed. In Foxburrow we also coppice six different hazels every year to promote healthy growth.

The "heavy gang" erected a fence around the stream where it meets the culvert at the end of Gainsborough Drive and installed fencing alongside the A12.

Nature Reserve

At last the burr reeds have been cleared from the top pond, a job well done.

A large area near the main entrance has been cleared and a hedge formed to create a lovely open space behind. A few small trees have been cleared from around the middle pond to let some light in but the pond surface is still covered in duckweed. This is so hard to eradicate that just one piece left behind will grow so fast as to soon cover the pond again.

The storms brought down a large tree, into the pond, but this has now been cleared away.

Gunton Woodland Burial Park - by Harry Hill, Leader of the Church Field Group.

Since the Open Day, we have made slow but steady progress towards the development of the GWBP. 27 people have joined as Friends and we have received over £3800 in donations. The PCC has offered the project a £25000 long term loan and several individuals have pledged long term loans amounting to £27000. We still need further financial support, although we have enough support to go ahead with the scheme. The farmer was given notice to vacate the Phase 1 part of the site from October, we expect to begin planting trees shortly after. We have been awarded a grant of £23000, spread over 15 years, from the Forestry Commission. We expect to begin work on the infrastructure towards the end of 2014. We would welcome offers of help from anyone who has business and/or management experience to support us in this area.

If you are interested or can help in ANY way please contact the Rector or Harry Hill on Tel 572334.

Gunton Warren Project

Suffolk Wildlife Trust has taken on a 10 year lease to manage Gunton Warren. It is planned to widen some of the main paths and to possibly have two flights of steps to the beach. Attacking the Japanese Knotweed will be a top priority, along with re-instating tracts of heather to replace some of the bracken that has taken over. There have already been some well attended volunteer work parties, please let SWT know if you would like to join. More days are planned, as follows –

27th January - meet at Links Road Car Park at 9.30am.

24th February - meet at Links Road Car Park at 9.30am.

24th March - meet at Links Road Car Park at 9.30am.

Tools & gloves will be provided, please bring your lunch.

If anyone is interested in becoming a volunteer warden for the warren please contact Matt Gooch, Broads Reserves Warden – mob:07825-583111 matt.gooch@suffolkwildlifetrust.org.



Top Award for GWCP – Monday 2nd December

In September we had a visit from Brian Thornton of Anglia in Bloom who came along to our workparty to inspect the work we were doing in both Gunton and Foxburrow Woods. This was to assess the progression of the group for entry into the "RHS IT'S YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD" award. This is held annually by the Royal Horticultural Society and Anglia in Bloom. Detailed notes were taken of tasks being undertaken and those that had been completed throughout the year. We

were asked to attend a presentation evening at The Community Hall in Gunton which seven members attended. We were awarded "Certificate Level 5: Outstanding" - the top award.



Tree Inspection 2013 – Wednesday 6th November

GWCP had its annual tree inspection, conducted by Paul McDowell-Veitch, the Waveney Norse Arboricultural Manager. It covered Gunton Wood, the green belt alongside Gainsborough Drive and Foxburrow. In Gunton and Foxburrow Woods there were a few problems too big for GWCP to manage, these will be undertaken by Waveney Norse. GWCP will sort out, the Willows in the wild flower meadow, a Sycamore, a dead Elm and a Hawthorn overhanging a garden. In the green space alongside Gainsborough Drive there is a fallen Elm that will be left and an uprooted tree that GWCP will remove and replace. An Ash tree at the end of Gainsborough has a split in one of its main branches, Paul advised that in removing the branch the tree would be lopsided and would fall, so all three main branches need to be removed. A replacement tree will be planted nearby. In Foxburrow we have a dead Birch, an Elm, a dead London Plane and an Oak branch to remove plus thin out some self-seeded small oaks at the Gunton Church Lane gate. Paul thought the woods were doing excellently and we were doing a great job of managing them! Minimal intervention seemed to be Paul's way, where possible leaving trees to fall naturally providing there was no danger and to leave some of the fallen wood to rot.

Social Events

Snape Christmas Show 2013 – December 20th

66 members and friends travelled to Snape for the matinee performance of the annual Christmas Spectacular staged by the Co-Op Juniors at Snape Maltings. The show this year was based upon the Charles Dickens story A Christmas Carol and was the usual colourful singing and dancing show presented by children from the ages of 4 accompanied by a few older members. Before the show at 4pm there was the opportunity to visit the various craft shops and have a lunch or snack in one of the eateries. The members agreed that it was as good as ever and asked to go again next year.

Woodland Workers Christmas Dinner – January 14th

A dinner for our regular Woodland Workers at the East Restaurant Lowestoft College. Again we had a full house, 46 of us attended. The evening went very well with excellent food and good company – always a recipe for success!



An Afternoon at the Cinema – Wednesday February 12th

An Invitation from the Corton Wood Project - *Several years ago, for a year, a member of the Lowestoft Cine Club photographed work carried out at the Corton Wood work parties and edited it into several short films. A screening of the films, plus several other short ones, has been arranged for 2.30 p.m. (finishing about 4.45 p.m.) at the Cine Club's cinema in Sparrow's Nest Gardens. Tickets are available from Joan (732003 - 25 Mill Lane) @ £4 each, including tea and cake in the interval. The cinema only seats 40 so it's first come first served. NB - there are no toilet facilities in the cinema, but there are toilets in the Sparrow's Nest grounds."*

Ireland Trip April 27th – May 4th 2014

There are no places left but there is a waiting list, please call David on 01502 515944 to go on this list. An 8day - 7 night luxury coach trip to Ireland. Starting Sunday 27th April.

Watch this space for next year's day trips!

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

Saturday 12th April 2014 at 9am to 11am. GUNTON PARK COMMUNITY Spring Litter Pick
As usual meet at the A12 end of Gainsborough Drive. Please bring gloves and wear stout shoes. There will be maps with areas assigned to collect litter. Refuse bags and litter pickers will be provided. If inclement weather please telephone David Briggs on 01502-515944 for information

Nature Notes



Stag Beetle : In Countryfile recently they talked about the Stag Beetle becoming rare and featured a vertical half buried log pile which would help the larvae. Stag beetles live for around 7 years, nearly all of which as larvae living underground, surviving mainly by consuming rotten wood. The adults can fly and may be seen flying around on humid stormy evenings during May - August. Although the males look dangerous they are completely harmless, the antlers just being used for rutting, like deer. So, maybe we should create a vertical log pile in Gunton Wood – just a thought !

Notes :

Want to know if the workparty is cancelled? Ring David on 01502-515944 or look on the website. NEWS is what has happened and EVENTS is what's coming up including Thursday workparty's job-list. Merchandise – please see website under “GOODS” for details. GWCP now has a presence on FaceBook, if you are on FB just search for GUNTON WOODLAND.

Reminder : AGM 2014 – 19th March 2014 7pm for 7.30 start in the hall at Gunton School

Edited by John Dickerson

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