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Gunton Woodland Community Project

NEWSLETTER

January – February 2015



AGM 2015 – 18th March 2015 7pm for 7.30 start in the hall at Gunton School



Gunton Wood

The wood is really lovely at the moment, with a super covering of snowdrops. It shows that our annual job of splitting large clumps, really does pay off. The aconites have not been quite so good, which might be due to the mild winter.

We have been trying to make a start in the new bee area and have already planted some evening primrose and teasels. Janet has also provided more evening primrose seeds that will be potted and transplanted when ready. Wally (our official photographer) has very kindly donated some money for plants/trees/shrubs for the area, so the

committee will draw up a list of what they think we need and then visit the wild flower centre to see what they have.

Some work has been done on the wild roses down by the picnic area. They have not been doing so well over the last two years, so they have been pruned and some of the blackthorn around them have been cleared to give more light. If they still don't recover, we may move some of them to the bee area next year.

Unfortunately during the Christmas break, some damage was done to the newly installed 'A' table on the wild flower meadow. It looked like someone had tried to move it, but it had been so well installed that it remained in-situ, with just two of the legs being split. Some of the men spent a couple of weeks repairing and re-installing it and hopefully, it will now last for a long time. One of the bird tables has also been repaired. Some of the railings are starting to rot and have been taken down. We have been told by some dog owners that the railings prevent them from going into the wood to clear up after their dogs, also we feel they are no longer required, as the main pathways are now very well defined. So, from now on, when railings have to be removed they will not be replaced.

As usual at this time of the year, we have been spending a lot of time chipping the paths. We have two mountains of chippings to dispose of because a very large delivery that had been ordered by the Corton Wood group, was delivered to us by mistake. Neither the Corton group nor us have the means to move a mountain, so we have had to try and use them all and Corton have ordered some more. Some of the mud from the main path has been removed, to try and expose the hard surface below. This is a never-ending task and probably needs a small digger to really make a difference.

The annual bird box survey has been completed and we found that 24 were nested in last year, plus several had been used for over-wintering, a few had to be repaired or replaced. We spotted that very soon after we had finished at least one was being investigated by a great tit, so we obviously could not have left it any longer. The mild winter has probably encouraged the birds to start a little bit earlier this year.



The Saturday morning gang have been removing and reducing some of the trees that were identified by the annual tree inspection as being unsafe and a possible danger. The large chestnut next to our coffee table, has had some branches removed from one side, as they were in danger of pulling it over. Hopefully it will now survive for many more years. A dead sycamore has been removed from Church wood and a sycamore and a dead holly had to be removed from the Gunton Church Lane area. Waveney Norse had to be called in when a sycamore suddenly split and was hanging over the pathway leading to the pond. They arrived almost immediately and by the end of the day the tree had been removed. We were very grateful for their speedy

response and action. WN also came back the next day to remove some of the trees that had been identified in the tree inspection, but were too big for us to undertake. Some of the wood will be used for the vertical log pile, some for edging and others to replace rotten logs in Woodhenge and as seating in our coffee table area.



Foxburrow Wood

We had a full work party in Foxburrow one Thursday, to clear brambles from the bluebell area. There was a really good turnout, so we managed to finish it all. Hopefully there will be a good display again this year.

The Saturday gang went down to inspect some silver birches that had been reported in the tree inspection. Several of them were found to be unsafe and were removed. Apparently silver birch can have a fairly short life span of about 15 to 20 years. There is a group of small oak trees that have self-seeded near the Gunton Church Lane entrance. A number of them have been marked for removal, in order to give the remainder a better chance of survival.

Other Local News

Gunton Woodland Burial Park - Barry Shimmiel

"In contrast to the sunny conditions for our first tree plant event in December, it was a somewhat cold and gloomy start for our second event on February 14th. Nevertheless, 78 volunteers signed in and succeeded in planting another 2000 trees and shrubs during the morning as the weather steadily improved.

A mixture of hawthorn, blackthorn, rowan, field maple, lime, cherry, hazel and holly together with clusters of dogwood and silver birch were planted in the gaps left during the first session.

One of the planting teams comprised four of our local Councillors while the Mayor of Lowestoft also planted a tree assisted by his wife. After taking advantage of a welcome mid-morning refreshment break at Gunton St Peters Annexe, volunteers returned to the field to continue planting. Barry was very impressed with the day's work and thanked everyone involved in a splendid effort.

A third and final community event has been scheduled for 14th March when 700 moisture loving trees will be planted. Volunteers are encouraged to bring children along to this Family Tree Plant occasion."



Third Community Tree Plant will take place on Saturday 14th March

on the Church Field, at the end of Gunton Church Lane from 9 am to 12 pm.

If you wish to take part, please show up at 8.30 am with suitable footwear, a spade and a lump hammer.

Children are also welcome. We will be planting 700 trees (alder, willow, aspen, and guelder rose) in the wet areas.

Call Barry on 562527 if the weather is bad.

Social Events

Christmas Dinner - Thursday January 29th

Some of our regular Woodland Workers and their partners, 41 in total, attended the Christmas dinner at the East Restaurant Lowestoft College. The evening went very well with excellent food and good company – always a recipe for success!



RHS Award 2014 - Friday February 2nd



Several members went to The Gunton Community Hall on Hollingsworth Road at 7pm on Friday February 2nd to collect another RHS "It's Your Neighbourhood" and "Anglia In Bloom" award, once again we gained the top award, level 5 "Outstanding". David gave a 30 minute presentation on GWCP, including 2 short films. The award was presented by Councillor Peter Collecot, Chairman of the Council. Tea, coffee and a lovely buffet was provided - there was so much food that several people took doggy bags home!!

Spring Litter Pick in association with the Gunton Park Residents Association - Saturday April 18th

Meet at 9am to 11am (tea/coffee at 10.30). 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

Kent Trip - Friday May 8th to 11th 2015 (full, waiting list started)

A 4 day, 3 night trip, staying at the Marriot Tudor Park Hotel in Maidstone Kent. Full details are on the website under EVENTS. If you are interested please contact Rosemary or David Briggs to be added to the waiting list.

And Finally.....

Brian Charge has joined David Briggs as a member of the 37 club. The club is named after the 37 radiotherapy treatments needed to treat prostate cancer. Several members volunteered to drive Brian to the N&N for his treatments. Brian has written the following :-

"Firstly I would like to thank everyone for all their help and support. We didn't realise in this day and age there were so many kind people, we have been overwhelmed. We would like to say a special thank you to John D for organising the rota for lifts back and forth to the Norfolk and Norwich hospital. Many thanks Brian and Kathleen Charge"

Reminder : AGM 2015 – 18th March 2015 7pm for 7.30 start in the hall at Gunton School

Edited by John Dickerson

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