

Gunton Woodland Community Project

www.guntonwoodland.org.uk
info@guntonwoodland.org.uk

NEWSLETTER

January – February 2016



Gunton Wood



Resurfacing of the main path, from the gate to the coffee area, is finished and has made a big improvement to the surface. We hope everyone is enjoying not having to wade through all that mud anymore! We are very grateful to Cllr. Keith Patience who funded the project. We are now waiting for the next section, from the coffee area towards the pond, to be done sometime in March. Cllr. Janet Craig has offered to fund part of this second phase from her locality budget and with some funds left over from the first phase only £170 remained, which we were going to fund ourselves. However, Annette Robinson from Suffolk Council has offered to cover the shortfall from her Rights of Way budget. Many thanks to everyone who has given their support. All the work has been carried out by Alan Nobbs Surfacing Contractors from Ditchingham and we are very pleased with the result.

The Saturday gang have finished all the work identified in the annual tree inspection for GWCP to undertake. The resulting logs have been used for path edging, replacing rotten seats at the coffee area and repairing the fence around the pond. There are still some large trees that need to be taken down, which are too big for us to handle. Waveney Norse will take care of those at some stage. Three dead elms that had fallen across the ditch in high winds have also been removed.

The annual bird box clean and survey has been completed. 26 boxes had been used for nesting and 16 had signs of “overwintering”. Some of the boxes had been attacked by woodpeckers so they have been reinforced with metal plates. Some needed more general repairs and three had to be replaced. Records about the bird boxes have been kept since 2003 and show that the number of nests has ranged from 22 (2011) at the lowest to 37 (2012) at the highest. This year’s figure is a little bit low, but probably not anything to be concerned about.

There has been a shortage of chippings since before Christmas, which means we’ve only had 2 or 3 Thursdays when we’ve been able to chip any paths. However, this does mean we’ve been able to access the old chippings/compost at the bottom of the heaps, which we have used as mulch around recently planted trees.

We were all intrigued and quite excited when, at the last work party in February, Paul Domaingue brought along a photo of an otter in one of the gardens in Crome Walk. Unfortunately most of the fish in the garden pond had been eaten, so Paul suggested anyone with a pond should make sure it is well protected. The otter trust were contacted and said that otters can travel 20 to 40 kilometres away from swollen or flooded rivers, to scavenge. We have since heard that there are otters in the Gunton Hall lake, so it might be worth wandering down there to see if you can spot one!



Foxburrow Wood

The Saturday gang have done a really good job of repairing the kissing gate and notice board at the Gainsborough Drive entrance.

On Feb. 11th the Thursday work party moved to Foxburrow, where we removed bracken and brambles from the bluebell area. This is a job we have done for a few years and this year there was not so much to remove, so it seems to be paying off. We all enjoyed working together for a change and with not so much to do we took the chance to have a chat and catch up with each other.

Nature Reserve - Ray Adcock, SWT Warden

“From September to the end of the year we carried out our usual clean-up of the reserve and the open areas were cut and the grass cleared. We then set about the major task of clearing the brambles, etc from in front of the hedge along Leisure Way. It took several work parties to clear this area which then allowed Matt and his team to cut back part of the hedge to reduce the height of the trees and to hopefully thicken growth within the hedge. This hedge had not had any work done on it since it was planted many years ago. I think that this was a job well worth doing as it cleared all the litter that was thrown into the hedge (and there were many, many bags of litter) and it does make the area look as though it is being cared for. It does not, however, stop litter being dumped but it does make it easier to clear up the blue gloves and paper towels from the Filling Station which during these last few weeks have been a terrible problem. Tesco has been asked to do something about the litter that they are creating.

We have recently planted several hawthorns and field maples in areas where trees had died.”

Social Events



Fund Raiser – Friday Jan 15th

Our fund raising evening was a great success. The band, CIRCA64, provided us with some wonderful dance songs from the 50's, 60's and 70's and we provided them with lots of interesting dancing! The evening was split into two sections to give the band a break and to allow us to hold a raffle. There were lots of donated prizes which allowed us to add a little more to our fund raising. At the end of the evening the audience were calling for "more", the band responded with 2 extra songs and finally finished around 11pm. A big "THANK YOU" to Terry, Jerry and Fred "CIRCA64" for giving us a great evening. We were able to add over £300 to our funds, which is really impressive and very much appreciated. There are some photos of the event in the "2016" album on our website.

Christmas Dinner – Thursday Jan 28th

On the evening of Jan 28th we had a dinner for our regular Woodland Workers at the East Restaurant Lowestoft College. 46 members attended and this year we were each welcomed with a glass of bubbly! A good opportunity to socialise away from our normal Thursday workplace.



RHS Anglia In Bloom Awards – Monday Feb 22nd

Four members went to The Gunton Community Hall on Hollingsworth Road at 7pm on Monday February 22nd to collect another RHS "It's Your Neighbourhood" and "Anglia In Bloom" award. Once again we gained the top award, level 5 - "Outstanding". A member of the Corton Wood group gave a very interesting presentation about the history of the woods and the work that has been done since the team of volunteers started in 2002. They also received an award. The awards were presented by Councillor Peter Collecot, Chairman of the Council. Tea, coffee and a lovely buffet was provided.



AGM – Wednesday April 13th 2016

The AGM will once again be at Gunton Primary School, Gainsborough Drive. There will be refreshments at 7pm and the AGM will start at 7.30pm. The guest speaker will be Simon Partridge from the How Hill Trust, who is scheduled to start at 8pm.

Spring Litter Pick – Saturday April 16th (provisional date to be confirmed)

Provisional date for the Spring litter pick, more details to follow.

Windsor Trip - Friday 6th to 9th May 2016

To be added to the waiting list, please contact David or Rosemary Briggs on 01502-515944.

We have organised a 3 night - 4 day trip to Windsor on the above dates through Belle Coaches Holidays for 2016. We will be staying at the Marriot Heathrow/Windsor close to Windsor. The cost of the trip is £339.00 pp with a single supplement of £35.00 pp, limited single rooms available. **The balance needs to be paid by March 1st.**

Nature Notes

The Call of the Great Tit (with acknowledgements to David Attenborough's tweet-of-the-day).

Perhaps the commonest bird song heard in Gunton Wood is the persistent metallic 'teacher-teacher' call of the Great Tit. But this is just one of the 40 or more calls associated with this species and every bird has a repertoire of at least 10 calls. Why so many? It is the Beau Geste syndrome. In the famous French Foreign Legion story, Beau Geste made a valiant attempt to defend the fort against attacking Tauregs by propping up corpses to make it look as though many soldiers were left. Similarly our feathered friend mimics the calls of many birds to give the impression that his territory is well defended... très ingénieux!



Please Note : FINAL PAYMENT FOR WINDSOR IS NOW DUE

Edited by John Dickerson

Web : www.guntonwoodland.org.uk

Email : info@guntonwoodland.org.uk