

Gunton Woodland Community Project

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

NEWSLETTER

May – June 2016



Gunton Wood

The wood is in full leaf now and looks very green and fresh, the wild flower meadow has masses of buttercups and orchids, and is a lovely place to sit and relax.

As for the workers, well the last two months have been mainly about general care and maintenance. We split some of the large clumps of snowdrops, removed some Spanish bluebells and pulled up most of the alexanders.

We continued chipping paths until the chippings ran out and, as we may not get any more until the autumn, we're hoping that most of the summer rain has gone so that the paths don't get too muddy. We continued clearing the path edges of nettles and brambles, sometimes by just pulling and sometimes with careful strimming and scything. We have also cleared the main entrance and the Stubbs Wood entrance.



The new seats have had another coat of paint, so they should be good now for the rest of the year.

We replaced quite a lot of the old supporting canes round the young trees with stakes we bought recently. Some of the old guards have been replaced with new mesh, which hopefully will give the trees a better chance. Where new trees had died we planted ones which had been 'grown on' in the nursery.

The wildflower meadow has had an invasion of dock weeds, so a lot of hard work has been put into trying to get rid of them.

The B&B area has also got some dock weeds, which we've been trying to restrict. We have left an area of nettles for butterflies, moths and other insects. More wild flowers have been planted in the B&B area, but we are fighting a real battle with the long grass. However, we will persevere and hopefully each year will see some progress. Waveney Norse came along one week to remove a large rotting sycamore on the path near to the main entrance and also to remove some large dangerous branches from an ash at the top of Moore's Lane. The men soon put the resulting logs to good use, replacing old path edging. The main path is in a really good condition now, with the new surface and large log edging giving an impressive entrance to the wood.

Some of our men went over to the railway steps and formed a "chain gang" to top-dress each step with road planings that had been provided by Pleasurewood Hills. They worked really well and not only did they complete the steps, there was enough time (and planings) to improve the path at the bottom of the steps – a really good morning's work.

We did some work in the ditch, removing mud from around the dam in the hope that more water would feed into the pond. The pond was in quite a sad state until the rain towards the end of June brought signs of improvement. We are going to try laying a much longer pipe along the ditch, in the hope of catching the water further up – fingers crossed !



Foxburrow Wood

We have had two independent inspections of the main ponds in Foxburrow Wood. First was Alan Nobbs, the contractor who did all the ground works on the burial park and second, was Christine Robson from Essex and Suffolk Water. They both came to the same conclusion, which was that the financial cost and the unavoidable environmental damage incurred in trying to dredge the ponds would be too great. So unfortunately, we will have to leave them as they are. The best we can hope for is that over the years they will gradually revert back to scrub and woodland. We have had discussions about the best way to improve the really muddy areas on some of the paths and have decided to lay type 1 stones, which we hope to do later in the summer.

Social Events

Windsor Trip - Friday 6th to 9th May 2016

48 of us set off on a hot sunny morning, stopping at Newmarket Stud for a short coffee break before continuing to Windsor. We had a free guided tour around the grounds of the castle before going inside to visit the Queen's State rooms. The staff were extremely helpful with our two wheelchair members who were able to go everywhere the public were allowed to visit. We arrived at the Marriott Heathrow Windsor in time to relax before our evening dinner. On Saturday we visited Denbies Wine Estate in Dorking where we were shown a short video followed by a wine tasting and then lunch in the conservatory. In the afternoon we had free time in Guildford.



Sunday was spent at Kew Gardens where we split into 2 groups and were given a guided tour. The rest of the day was free to explore and take, at our leisure, the land train ride to see the large gardens. The weather was extremely hot by lunch time so we decided to stay at Kew rather than visit Richmond. Monday morning the coach took us to Maidenhead where we boarded the boat for a trip to Windsor. The captain gave us an excellent commentary pointing out the expensive houses of the stars. Again the weather was very good. We arrived in Windsor at lunchtime with free time in the town, before our journey home. Photos are available under the PHOTOS tab on the website, and a special DVD of the trip is available to buy at £4 – contact Rosemary on 01502-515944.

Orwell River Cruise – Tuesday 12th July 2016

A day river cruise from Ipswich Docks to Shotley HMS Ganges Museum.

Bingo with Fish & Chips – Thursday 8th September 2016 7pm

The Fish and Chip Bingo is at St Benedict's Church Hall, 7pm for a 7.30pm start.

Tickets are £8 and available from Rosemary Briggs. Donations of raffle prizes would be most welcome on the evening.

Snape Christmas Show - Saturday December 10th 2016

We will be organising a trip to the Christmas Spectacular at Snape again this year. It will be Saturday 10th December 2016 for a matinee show leaving Gunton Church Lane at 1.00 pm.

Full details from David or Rosemary Briggs at a later date tel no 01502 515944.

Early Warning

The 2017 “Mug Shots” calendar is already in production with the theme hoping to be nature reserves. More details later.



Edited by John Dickerson

Web : www.guntonwoodland.org.uk

Email : info@guntonwoodland.org.uk