



A team set about chipping the paths

Message from the Chair (David Briggs)

Hello to all our members and friends. We held our AGM on Wednesday 5th April at St. Benedict's Church at 7.00 for 7.30 pm. It was well attended and the evening went well. The committee were re-elected as there were no new nominations. The Speaker Peter Ransome gave an interesting talk on the wildlife in Gunton Wood.

Your new committee met for their first meeting and set about the tasks for the coming year.

The work parties continued very well throughout last year. They now continue with several new members attending the regular work parties on Thursday mornings. It is now our 25th year of GWCP and as we look back on what has been accomplished over the years it is very pleasing to see our lovely wood is still a wonderful place for all to enjoy. There are several problems within the wood which hopefully will be addressed over the coming year. The mature sycamore trees are suffering badly from a fungus called sooty bark disease. There are now several which will have to be attended to in the coming months. The dipping platform was due to be used by the school in May but unfortunately at a safety inspection it was found to be unsafe because of rotted wood. This will now be replaced using a grant from Councillor James Reeder, keeping a valuable resource for safe pond dipping.

The work in nearby Foxburrow Wood had to be postponed because of fewer volunteers at work parties, but we will be able to complete the replacement of the final boardwalk section in the wood at a future date. A new type of path is being planned and will be discussed at the next committee meeting. The B & B area has produced an abundance of wild flowers throughout the year. It is nearly the time when we will cut these areas once again. The main ditch in Gunton Wood carrying water from Gunton Church Lane down towards Pleasure Wood Hills always gets blocked along its length, especially at the very bottom of the main lane where it floods quite often. This is cleared regularly, normally by the same team who seem to enjoy playing in the mud. Through the help from Harrods, who kindly donated some heavy box section, the water bowser which was given to us by PWHs was re-constructed and will be used to water our new trees if there is a drought again this year.



One of the work parties enjoy a Birthday



Sooty Bark on a big sycamore



Dismantling the rotten platform

We hope to see as many members and friends that can come along to our events listed below.

David Briggs.



Chipper George in full swing



Wild Flowers on Moore's Lane



"The Mud Larks"



The new water bowser

Social. Rosemary Briggs.

Day trip to Lavenham then onto Kentwell Hall and Gardens for their War and Peace Re-enactment day on Saturday 5th August 2023. **This is now full.**

Bingo Fish and Chips on Friday 1st September at St Benedict's Church 7.00pm for 7.15pm. Tickets £11

The Co-Op Juniors Snape Christmas Spectacular celebrating 80 years of the company Saturday 9th December 2023. Tickets £35 (This includes entry and coach.)

If you are interested in any of the social events please contact Rosemary on 01502 515944.

Or Email rosemarybriggs.65@icloud.com

What to look out for - by Janet Field

Nationally the UK's Wildlife Trusts warned on 3rd July 2023 that a succession of heatwaves and droughts over recent years have left nature pounded by extreme weather without a chance to recover. These conditions caused streams to dry up, flowering plants to wilt and insects feeding on nectar and pollen to run out of food. Invertebrates naturally go deeper underground to find moisture when it is dry, so rodents struggle to eat, which has a knock on effect on barn owls feeding their young. There was also a rise in sea temperature, particularly off the east and North West coasts of the UK by as much as 4 degrees C.

In Jersey, June this year was officially the warmest month since the famously hot summer of 1976 and the driest for nearly a decade. Environmentalists believe this had a devastating impact on wildlife.

The Daily Telegraph on 4th July 2023 had an article suggesting that birds will raise fewer chicks in future decades because of climate change as an early Spring makes it harder for them to know when the time is right to breed. This phenomenon has been called an "ecological mismatch". In fact it has been noted that many birds have already only raised one brood over the last two or three years because of the changing weather. From the foregoing it is easy to note how everything in nature is connected in one way or another.

However we do have a bonus – the appearance of bee eaters nesting in this country and the subsequent crowds of bird fanciers viewing them through binoculars and telescopes. And the Woodland Trust stating..."One of the best defences against the climate crisis IS PLANTING TREES as they lock up carbon and keep our planet healthy for people and wildlife."

Nature Notes High Speed Weeds? (Barry Shimmield)

If you live in Gunton and are lucky enough to have a patch of lawn beside your home you may have noticed the appearance of a strange looking weed, perhaps for the first time this year. The **Small Cudweed** (*Logfia minima*), also known as the **Lesser Cottonweed**, has spread like wildfire recently and, notwithstanding the old adage that all



weeds are actually wild flowers growing in the wrong place, this particular weed is turning into something of a nightmare.

Starting in discrete little colonies, it can grow to heights of 10 or more inches and its intricate flower heads produce fluffy white balls of "cotton" at maturity.

The origin of its "Cudweed" name stems from the 17th Century when farmers would feed it to their cattle that had stopped ruminating, or had "*lost their cud*".

Fortunately, the plant is shallow rooted and its early removal should stop your entire lawn from becoming completely covered.



Edited by Janet Field

Web : www.guntonwoodland.org.uk

Email : info@guntonwoodland.org.uk