

## Gunton Woodland Community Project

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# NEWSLETTER

Jan – Mar 2019

The AGM will be at  
**St. Benedict's Church  
Hall.**  
Apr 17<sup>th</sup> 7pm.

### Gunton Wood

“Happy 21<sup>st</sup> Birthday!” Thursday March 28<sup>th</sup> 2019 was 21 years to the day since the first GWCP workparty. Also during March 2019 we passed the landmark of 50,000 hours worked – an excellent achievement. See more details and pictures in “and finally” at the end of the newsletter.

During the last 3 months, we have continued the good work that was started all those years ago. The men have mostly concentrated on path edging, using a large amount of logs that the Saturday gang have produced from trees cut down in Pleasurewood Hills. PwH asked if our chainsaw gang could help them out with clearing a lot of Leylandii that had become too big. The resulting logs have been transported up to Gunton Wood and are proving very useful as good strong path edging. Also there have been quite a lot of strong winds already this year and one or two trees plus some large branches have come down, adding to the many piles of logs stacked around the wood waiting to be used. Creating the path edges is hard, time-consuming work and although many Thursday mornings have been dedicated to it already, there is still a lot to do – but it does keep the men busy and out of mischief.



Some of the men not involved in path edging, have been repairing fences and one of the picnic tables, and have replaced some way marker posts and the “Trafalgar Oak” sign which had rotted at the bottom.

One week, Andrew & Geoff finally bit the bullet and set about tidying and clearing the sheds – a job that has been on the agenda for many months. And, now that Greg has clambered onto the roof of the main shed and adjusted the solar panel, the light is working and we can see what we have and where it is – well done one & all!

We had some reports that the steps at the end of the railway line had become clogged up with mud and were becoming unsafe, so we have cleared them and made them level again.

Most Thursdays, we find time to litter pick around the wood and in the “bomb-hole” in the farmer’s field. Some of the ladies came back one week and reported that a lot of work had been done in the bomb hole to create what looks like a skate park or cycle track in there and that there was very little litter.

Two new ladies have recently joined the work party – Ruth & Jean, and they have immediately joined in with the ladies.

They have been busy checking and nurturing the new trees that were put in last year at the back of the church and along Gunton Church Lane. Only 3 or 4 trees had died, which was quite encouraging, and these will be replaced. Old chippings that had rotted were used to mulch around the trees that had survived, so they should now continue to flourish.

The ladies, with the help of some of the men, have undertaken the annual task of splitting snowdrops. We usually do this for 2 or 3 work parties and the spread of snowdrops throughout the wood is proof that it really is a worthwhile job. This year in particular there has been a magnificent display and we have had several visitors who told us it was the best display they have seen in the area!



John & Julie have been planting some more fritillaries and some corn cockle seeds in the wild flower meadow. They have also been waging the fight against the wild garlic that threatens to overtake everything if not kept in check. Some corn cockle seeds were also planted in the B&B area and some new trees have been planted around the copse that joins the area. Since the bug hotel has been constructed, we have lost quite a lot of the material that was used to fill it, so we have added more pipes filled with cones and canes and some old pieces of rolled-up carpet. We have now attached wire netting along the front, which we hope will secure the new material.

Several trees have been planted in the newly created area at the top of Moore's Lane, including quite a lot of self seeded young oaks that have been transplanted from the middle of the PwH field.

More recently, we have been removing alexanders where we find them in the wood. A few years ago we had a good purge of alexanders from the wood as they had spread throughout. Now it's more of a keeping them in check job. Also, some of the men have started replacing seats at the coffee area that have rotted. Fresh new logs were put in just in time for our celebrations.



One Thursday morning we were visited by groups of children from Northfield Primary school who were doing a project about wild foxes and wanted to see the sort of habitats that foxes use. David & Andrew took one group, and Barry took another. Each tour lasted about an hour and then those two groups were replaced by two more. The morning was very successful and all the children seemed really interested and keen to learn, hopefully it will spark an interest in wildlife and nature for some of them in the future.

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### ***Foxburrow Wood***

Quite a list of jobs had been accumulating over the last few weeks, so on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> January the work party was held in Foxburrow wood. One of the main jobs was to clear the boardwalks of wet leaves, because they were becoming quite slippery. Unfortunately, there was sharp frost and the leaves were all frozen to the wire netting. We did try scraping them off, but we were in danger of damaging the netting, so we had to abandon that job. We did clear around the young trees that had been planted a couple of years ago and found that most of them were doing quite well. We cleared the path edges and some blockages in the ditch. We also did a litter pick and were disappointed at how much litter there was.

Yvon & Jenny kindly invited us into their garden for coffee, which was a lovely social end to a very cold work party.



## *Social Events*

### ***GWCP Annual Workers Meal – Thursday Jan 24<sup>th</sup>***

On Thursday 24th January 2019 fifty workparty members attended the annual evening dinner at The Hotel Victoria. We arrived at 7.00 pm for a meal at 7.30 pm. By 7.15 pm we were all seated because the bar area was under refurbishment and a temporary bar had been set up in the dining room.

The evening was a great success but there were a few minor hiccups in that there was a shortage of waiters because of staff sickness. So the bar staff were co-opted onto waiting the tables. But we were all served without delay and the evening and the food was excellent.

Our thanks to Rosemary for all her organisation of the evening. David.



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## *Future Events –*

### ***Gunton Park Residents Spring Litter Pick – Saturday April 13th 2019***

A litter pick has been set up for Saturday 13th April starting at 10.30am and finishing around midday. The starting place will be the Yarmouth Road end of Gainsborough Drive and all the necessary equipment will be available (please bring suitable gloves though). We hope that as many volunteers as possible will be able to take part.

There will also be a further litter pick at Dip Farm on May 11th at 10.30am.

### ***22nd AGM – Wednesday April 17th 2019***

All members and friends are warmly invited to attend our 22nd AGM to be held on Wednesday 17th April 2019 at St. Benedict's Church Hall, Hollingsworth Road.

Refreshments will be served from 7 pm and the meeting starts at 7.30 pm.

There will be an illustrated talk by Edwina Beaumont entitled "Local Biodiversity".

Minutes of previous year's AGMs are available from the "Downloads" tab on the GWCP website.

### ***Derbyshire – Friday May 24th to Monday May 27th 2019***

This is now full but we do have a waiting list. A 3 night - 4 day trip to Derbyshire through Belle Coaches Holidays. Staying at the Hallmark Derby Mickleover Court hotel. The cost is £285pp with a single room supplement of £60pp.

### ***Snape Christmas Show – Saturday 7th December, 2019***

Early notification for the 2019 Snape Xmas Show.

It is their 15th Anniversary and will be a compilation of all the shows over the 15 years.

The show will be on Saturday 7th December 2019 at 2pm.

More details and flyers will be available on our website.

If you are interested in any of the above events please contact Rosemary or David by phone on 01502-515944 or by email to [info@guntonwoodland.org.uk](mailto:info@guntonwoodland.org.uk). More details and flyers are available on our website - [www.guntonwoodland.org.uk](http://www.guntonwoodland.org.uk)

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## *Look Out For – by Janet Field*

During our annual Spring clean of bird and bat boxes it was noted that, once again, the bat boxes had not been used. This year, prompted by one of our work party donating three new bat boxes, we hope for a better result. Bats are normally found in old dead tree trunks, often using holes created by woodpeckers as summer roosts.

If you wish to install a bat box it ought to be located higher than 3 metres above the ground and not be accessible to cats. More than one box requires them facing in different directions as if it becomes too warm or cold in their chosen box the occupants will move to another one.

To encourage bats to your garden you could provide nectar and pollen plants bearing evening scented flowers such as - evening primrose, night scented stock, tobacco plants, bladder campion (*silene vulgaris*) and climbing plants of honeysuckle, ivy and white jasmine. These will attract the very night flying creatures which bats devour. A pond in your garden or nearby access to one is a plus as bats enjoy a drink before their food.

Insects like mosquitos, moths, midges and beetles are bat food and the tiny pipistrelle may eat as many as two to three thousand on each nightly foray. A small number of bats do carry the rabies virus and should not be handled unless you are trained and vaccinated. If one accidentally enters your house wear thick gloves and entice it out through an open window or door.



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## *..... and finally*

On Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March we had a very special coffee time. We were celebrating 21 years of GWCP work parties and over 50,000 work hours achieved. Lots of workers, several members, supporters, local press and Woody Bear from Pleasurewood Hills turned up.

David and Rosemary had organised a special cake and some bottles of bubbly for a toast to the continuing success of GWCP followed by coffee and posh biscuits. Rosemary had anticipated a big turn out so brought along extra mugs which were all needed. It was a lovely social morning and David thanked everyone for their hard work and support, then we all thanked David & Rosemary for all their hard work in organising the event.

Woody Bear had brought along a cheque for £1000 sponsorship from Pleasurewood Hills! The success of GWCP is partly due to the sponsorship and donations that we have received over the years. This year Lowestoft Town Council kindly donated over £1000 for the purchase of a large grass strimmer and a petrol pole saw.



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