

Gunton Woodland Community Project

NEWSLETTER

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January/February/March 2023



Message from the Chairman (David Briggs)

Hello to all our members and friends. We will be holding our next **AGM on Wednesday 5th April** at St. Benedict's Church at 7.00 for 7.30 pm. Please see the attached AGM notice.

The Work parties continued very well throughout last year. We are now entering our 25th year of GWCP. The annual jobs went well over the year. The annual tree inspection carried out in September brought the usual problem with sooty bark disease which causes the death of our mature sycamores, several were found to be completely dead and would become dangerous if near to footpaths. This meant that either GWCP or East Suffolk Norse would have to fell them. The work in nearby Foxburrow wood continues although at a reduced rate because of fewer numbers on the volunteer work parties. But we finally were able to complete the replacement board walks in the wood. The B & B area was well maintained and produced an abundance of wild flowers throughout the year. 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.



Tree felling on the main lane



Boardwalk team in F Wood



Tree in the B & B area



Playing in the muddy ditch

The seasonal jobs have continued with WPs at a level of sufficient numbers to be up to date with all the jobs in the wood. The chipping of the paths is a regular job enjoyed by all. We had a problem with the heaps of chippings as they had rotted before we could use them. This meant that we had to clear them before new chippings were delivered.

With the weather now entering the spring season the work parties have been busy preparing for the summer. The hot summer had taken its toll on the trees that were planted last spring so we planted over 100 trees from our nursery hoping that they will survive if there is a repeat summer heat wave.

To help with this we are preparing a trailer with a large water bowser to try and water the trees if needs be.



One of our chipping WPs



Raking in the chippings



Using our new chipper



Part of the team tree planting

The spring flowers this year so far have been the best ever, starting with snow drops, aconites and now daffodils coming into bloom. This will be followed by primroses, bluebells and orchids. Something we can look forward to.

Hope to see as many members and friends at our AGM and our other events listed below.

David Briggs.

Social. Rosemary Briggs.

AGM 5th April 2023 please see the attached notice.

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

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

The Co-op Juniors Snape Christmas Spectacular celebrating 80 years of the company

Saturday 9th December 2023.

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

“Have you ever noticed the temperature reduction in a woodland? Last year during our long, hot summer we observed many more visitors to Gunton woods. Some were dog walkers doing their regular duty. Others discovered the pleasant coolness of being amongst the trees, particularly as a relief from the burning sun. Some people came from Gunton Hall walking through the cooler woods to the coast. All seemed to have the same intention - to get away from the heat. Their choice was a good one!

Gunton woods, as a group of trees is, with many other similar groups, affecting both climate change and air quality. Woods in general reduce humidity and temperature and attack pollution. As an example, the foliage of just one mature beech tree extracts more than 2.5kg of CO₂ from the atmosphere and produces 1.7kg of oxygen in just one hour. Smaller species like conifers and birch have the ability of creating movement of air, thereby enabling pollutants to be filtered or absorbed by the tree foliage.

So enjoy your walks through the woods and look out for the wonderful wild flowers and if you keep quiet you may surprise some of the wildlife.”

Nature Notes Instant Forests? (Barry Shimmield)

You all know about instant coffee, but did you know that there are also instant forests?

Back in 1980, a Japanese botanist named Dr Akira **Miyawaki** proposed a method of planting native trees and shrubs in such a way that they would reach maturity rapidly with growth rates up to ten times that of conventional propagation. The idea caught on and over 40 million trees have already been planted in more than 15 countries using the Miyawaki method.

It requires meticulous soil preparation with mulch and nutrients, a careful choice of tree species to ensure compatibility with the soil and the location, dense planting only 30 cm apart, and a controlled moisture environment. A tennis court sized area is optimum to achieve the required level of control and Miyawaki visualised large numbers of plantations often in urban locations that would quickly transform the earth's ecology. As well as reaching a stable multi-layered forest community in 20-30 years, instead of several hundred, Miyawaki forests have been found to absorb lots more carbon and have far higher biodiversity numbers, on average 18 times higher.

The U.K's first ever “**Tiny Forest**”, based on Miyawaki principles, was planted in March 2020 on small plot in Witney, West Oxfordshire, with 600 densely packed native trees. The picture shows the remarkable result just 17 months later.

Closer to home, North Norfolk District Council are now assessing the merits of this new fast growing ecosystem in Fakenham, North Walsham and Sheringham.

It is probably too early to conclude whether this method will revolutionise the greening of our depleted countryside but who knows?



Edited by Janet Field

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