



NEWSLETTER

July – August 2015

Gunton Wood

The work parties have been very well attended over the last few weeks, so a lot of good work has been done. More wildflowers have been planted in the B&B area, the new trees have had space cleared around them to give them room to breathe and the long grass has been cut with scythes and shears. There is quite a variety of wildflowers in there now, so we're hoping for a good show next year.



The wildflower meadow has been cut and raked, which is always a matter of "all hands to the pump" and, although it's tough going, it makes a nice change for us all to be working together.

The new fence around the nursery has been painted and the nursery has been weeded and cleared ready for some new young trees that will arrive in the autumn. We have also planted some more rose bushes along the outside of the new fence



The men have built a new fence around the end of the ditch at the entrance to the farmer's field and the burial park. There is quite a steep drop from the path down into the ditch, so hopefully it's safe for people to walk along there now. The log that was across the path into the farmer's field has been cut through by John who has recently passed the City & Guilds chainsaw course. The path has been drained and a few chippings have been spread, to make it a bit easier for dog walkers to get into the burial park area.



Several of the men have done a good job of clearing duckweed and sediment from the pond and it is now back to life again. Barry has reported "hundreds of snails, many newts and even some dragonfly larvae", which is really good news after the poor start at the beginning of the summer. The fence and gate around the pond have been repaired and reinforced, with help from Terry's grandson Oscar, who came along in the school holidays.



We've also had our youngest member Max helping with the path chipping. He always brings along his own wheelbarrow and rake as ours are just a bit too big when you're only four! Max used to come along regularly on a Thursday morning, but since he started school, he can only come during the holidays. It's always a pleasure to have the youngsters showing an interest.

overgrowth and undergrowth, to allow a free flow of water. We had great fun and it was a nice change for us to have a tough job where we could get stuck in and get our hands (and faces) dirty. As well as clearing debris, we also rebuilt one of the banks that was being undercut. The recent rain has sent a good flow of water down the ditch, proving that we have done a good job.

The "girls" (we like to kid ourselves) have spent quite a lot of time clearing the ditch. The main job was to clear



We have suffered from some vandalism during the school holidays, so that has given us extra work. Two of the benches were completely destroyed, so they've been removed and will be rebuilt later in the year. Most of the bird tables were knocked over or pulled apart, but they have now all been repaired. A lot of the railings were pushed over, but we had previously decided not to replace them when they rotted, so they have just been cleared away, ready to be used as path edging when required. If you are walking in Gunton Wood and you do spot something suspicious, please ring 101 and report it, this is the police non-emergency number.



The usual path maintenance has continued. The edges have been kept clear of nettles and brambles and edging has been replaced where necessary. Pleasurewood Hills gave us some large pine logs that have been used to create some really substantial edging, which should last for several years. We've had quite a lot of heavy rain recently, which has washed chippings away from some of the paths, so that has been an on-going job in the last few weeks, which will now continue into autumn and winter.

On Saturday July 18th we had a visit from East Suffolk Greenprint Forum. We started at the new Burial Park and Barry gave a brief talk on how it had come about. Then David led the group on a tour around Gunton Wood before refreshments in David & Rosemary's garden. "The East Suffolk Greenprint forum provides an environmental link between public and voluntary organisations and community groups and is a hub for community groups to share skills and experiences around energy, water, waste, local food and nature; as well as an incubator for local community action."



Unfortunately, we have recently had confirmation, from the woodland officer at Suffolk County Council, that some of the ash trees in Gunton Wood have ash die back disease (Chalara). We have been advised just to monitor the trees for now and remove any branches that we deem dangerous.

Social Events

Autumn Litter Pick in association with the Gunton Park Residents Association.

Sat 7th November 2015 at 9am to 11am (tea at 10.30). GUNTON PARK COMMUNITY Autumn Litter Pick. As usual meet at the A12 end of Gainsborough Drive. Please bring gloves and wear stout shoes. There will be maps with areas assigned to collect litter. Refuse bags and litter pickers will be provided. If inclement weather please telephone David Briggs on 01502-515944 for information.

Snape Christmas Show - Saturday December 12th 2015

The coach will leave Gunton Church at 1pm to arrive at Snape at 2pm. So there will be time to have lunch or shop and enjoy the delights of the Pre-Christmas atmosphere before the show starts at 4pm. The show this year is based on Alice in Wonderland. The coach will leave for home after the show and we should arrive at Gunton Church by approximately 7.30pm. The price of the trip is £33.50 pp and includes entry to the show with the best seats and the cost of the coach. If you are interested please contact Rosemary or David Briggs, or any committee member. Cheques should be made out to GWCP please. Payment is required by OCTOBER 1st 2015.

AGM – Wednesday April 13th 2016

Windsor Trip - Friday May 6th to 9th 2016

This trip is now full. To be added to the waiting list, please contact David or Rosemary Briggs.

"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."

Gunton Woodland Burial Park - Barry Shimmield

“With all 6600 trees planted on the Burial Park, our attention has turned towards their on-going care and maintenance. This has involved correcting those that had inverted tubes, releasing trapped stems and removing grass and weeds from inside many of the tubes. So far the failure rate appears to be low at around 1% which is exceptionally good but it is still early days to be sure of this. The long dry spell in mid Summer caused some tree damage due to scorching but recent rain showers have helped recovery. In early July, our civil contractor returned to complete the top surfacing of the roads and car park using graded crushed asphalt. The Park infrastructure was completed in the first week of September with the installation of the main gates, a 2-way pedestrian gate, surrounding fencing and a fully fenced South-east corner including a chicane to allow access by dog walkers while preventing motor-bikes. All of this work was directed by Colin Fitt, with the hard working support of a number of GWCP volunteers. Last Autumn, prior to our tree planting operations, the farmer cultivated and drilled the field with a mixture of rye and red fescue grass seed. This established very well and on 1st July the first grass cut was made by Waveney Norse using ride-on mowers together with manual strimming where necessary. The results were excellent and the overall appearance of the Park is now extremely good with just one or two difficult areas near the gate and on the embankment where agricultural weeds are a problem due to the disturbed soil. Selective herbicide spraying may be required here.



The public launch of the Burial Park started on 20th August with TV and press coverage and the official website www.guntonwoodlandburial.co.uk also went live. Reservations are now being taken and the Park will be ready for burials from 1st January 2016.”

Nature Reserve - Ray Adcock, SWT Warden

“The summer was spent mainly keeping the paths cut and clear of obstructions. The problem with dog mess is still an ongoing situation and it is very difficult catching the unsociable dog walkers.

The range and number of orchids this year was the best that I have seen in my years walking the meadow. For the first time I found a fascinating group of bee orchids.

The meadow was cut at the end of August and the area cleared of brambles last year was green hayed.

A good summer for birds and it was nice to see large flocks of long-tailed tits and blue tits with young.

We now look forward to our planned autumn work over the next few months.”

Gunton Warren Project –John Knights, Volunteer Warden.

“The new steps were installed by contractors on the slope leading from the Holm Oak Copse to the beach, and most feedback has been positive. The monthly work party has fully repaired the wildflower enclosures on the beach, and continued with the bamboo cutting and removal, although there is still a long way to go before completion. Dave Burge has added some more steps on the path to the beach, at the southern end of the site. The reptile survey, by Gil Drake and myself has been ongoing with numerous common lizards found, but still no adders have been encountered. Finally the patches that Nick Blacker has been working on, with additional assistance, so hard for so long, have provided some fine results with lovely displays of heather. Thanks to everyone who has helped this summer.”



Nature Notes (*Beauty and the Beast*) – Barry Shimmield

Here is a question for all those Coccinellidae-lovers.



What is the difference between this fearsome looking beastie on the left and every child's favourite orange bug with the black spots? Answer; about 2 weeks. That's how long it takes for the ladybird larva to eat masses of plant aphids, form a chrysalis, or pupa, and then transform into our familiar friend. And if you are really smart you can tell from the pattern on the back of the larva whether it will become our most common 7 spot or perhaps a 12 spot or one of the other 44 kinds of UK ladybird.



A few years ago, experts were warning us of the invasion of hordes of nasty little creatures *Harmonia axyridis* or Harlequin ladybirds which threatened the existence of our native species. They do like to hide in people's houses so watch your window-sills. The danger is still real, but the good news is that most of the ladybirds that we find now in the wood and in our gardens are still genuine English Native. So maybe the Harlequin immigrants from Asia do not like English Winters? We can but hope.



Thank you

GWCP would like to thank Waveney Norse, who generously funded John Dickerson's chain saw course and assessment. Thankfully, John passed first time.

GWCP 2016 Calendar

The Gunton Woodland 2016 Calendars will be on sale soon at ONLY £5 each !! Following on from last year's beautiful calendar of bird photos, this year's theme is "Butterflies" with more stunning photographs provided yet again by Edwina Beaumont.



Don't let this offer "flutter by". Order early to avoid disappointment. Ring Rosemary on 01502-515944 with your order.

In Memoriam

We are very sorry to have to report the sudden death of Marie Fuller. Marie worked with the group for many years, until ill health prevented her from doing what can be at times quite hard work. Her husband Martin who cared for the birds by putting food onto all the bird tables, still comes into the wood to visit us at coffee time every Thursday. Our sympathy goes to him and the family.