

# **Gunton Woodland Community Project**

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

## **NEWSLETTER**

**June 2013 – October 2013**



Calendars Now  
On Sale!



**Wild Flower Meadow in Gunton Wood Summer 2013**

### **Save The Planet And 80p**

Printing costs of our last newsletter worked out at approx. 80p per copy and took nearly 2 days to print. So, to help keep costs down, to help save time and to help save the planet, we would like to move to electronic versions of the newsletter as much as possible. In future we will maintain a list of members who have requested paper versions and printed copies will only be sent to them, all other members will be emailed a copy (providing we have your email address). The newsletter is available on the GWCP website under the “About Us” heading, [www.guntonwoodland.org.uk](http://www.guntonwoodland.org.uk)

If you would like to keep receiving a paper copy, and we know there are several of you who would, just let one of the committee members know and they will make sure you are added to the list. If you provide us (any committee member) with your email address or send an email to [info@guntonwoodland.org.uk](mailto:info@guntonwoodland.org.uk) we will make sure you receive an email copy and not a printed copy.

Finally, a big thank you to all those who have already responded to the plea in the last newsletter and have provided us with their email address, you've each saved the group 80p!

### ***Gunton Wood***

The main path has been narrowed and edged and the surface is now level. The edges have been left to “settle in” but will soon be planted with new trees and shrubs etc.

Summer work in the wood involved a lot of watering to ensure new trees planted this year would survive the hot dry weather. Unfortunately all the wild cherries have suffered badly and most have not made it. The wild flower meadow had lots of common spotted orchids and a really colourful covering of buttercups. No bee orchids in Gunton Wood this year but a small clump were found in an area between Corton Wood and Pleasurewood Hills, so they are still in the area. The meadow has been cut and the hay raked off ready for the new spring growth.

The pond is doing well, with a vast amount of frogs and newts also, lots of blanket weed and duckweed which kept Barry busy.

The “strimming gang” have been busy clearing the dis-used railway line, making the footpath much wider and more accessible for dog-walkers and ramblers.

A replacement notice board for the main entrance has been delivered. Dick has made an excellent wooden surround for it and we hope to fit it in November and have a small opening ceremony.

Dick and Colin have replaced the supports of two of our bird tables which were rotten and Martin is still doing a sterling job of feeding our bird population every day.

### ***Foxburrow Wood***

The “heavy gang” have been busy laying another boardwalk paid for by the Big Lottery Fund. They also erected a fence around the end of the stream where it goes into the culvert at the bottom end of Gainsborough Drive. As the boardwalk was being laid, several workers were clearing the ditches, litter picking and clearing path edges. On Aug 5<sup>th</sup> David gave a guided tour of Foxburrow Wood to members of Corton Wood group, some of us went along as well. We had a very pleasant and informative stroll followed by a meal at the Foxburrow pub. It was good to meet and chat with the Corton Wood workers.

### **Nature Reserve**

There has not been a lot of work required on the Nature Reserve during the summer but we have recently been giving Ray some help to reduce the bur-reeds on the top pond.

On Aug 29<sup>th</sup> the work party were busy on Gunton Meadow for the annual hay-raking morning. There is always a good turn-out for this and we were joined by several members from Suffolk Wildlife Trust. The meadow was cleared by coffee time so a few of us joined the SWT people, on the Reserve, to finish off raking the wild flower meadow.



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### **Merchandise / 2014 Calendar**

A little Christmas gift maybe or is it time to update your Woodland Wardrobe?  
**2014 GWCP CALENDAR £4.50** (order yours now to avoid disappointment)

See our new line in Graphite Grey with a white logo, very smart.  
For a silk logo there is an extra £1.00 to pay on green and graphite shirts  
Add £1.00 for sizes XXXL // Add £2.00 for sizes XXXXL

	<b>GREEN</b>	<b>Lt GREY</b>	<b>GRAPHITE</b>
T shirt	£ 7.00	£ 8.00	£ 7.00
Polo Shirt (short sleeve)	£13.00	£14.00	£17.00
Polo Shirt (long sleeve)	£16.50	£17.50	£19.50
Sweat Shirt (round neck)	£17.00	£18.00	N/A
Sweat Shirt (hooded)	N/A	£21.00	N/A
Base Ball Cap	£ 6.00	N/A	N/A

Also available just a few remaining DVDs of the Woodland Year 2012/13 only £3.  
Please PHONE Rosemary Briggs on 01502 515944 to place your order  
(All prices correct at time of print)

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### **Social Events**

#### **Trip to Switzerland : 3rd – 9th May 2013**

43 happy wanderers journeyed from Lowestoft to the Channel Tunnel stopping overnight in the Metz area in France before continuing on to the family run Hotel Alpenblick in Fieschertal. We were disappointed that heavy snow blocking all the passes prevented the stop at Risenbeck Falls. We detoured around the mountains arriving in good time to settle into our hotel for a 4 night stay. The family there could not do enough to make our stay very pleasant.

We took all the rest of the tour according to plan and were surprised when our Host rewarded us with a cable car trip up the local mountainside persuading the village people to open up the cable car early to give us the delights and views of the whole area. The snow at the top was so high that they had to cut a doorway through it for us to go out onto the viewing platforms. He further surprised us by opening up a mountain top hotel and treating us all to a glass of wine. Neil our driver was excellent as always and delivered us all safely home.



#### **Woodland Wedding : August 2nd**

Two of our members, Diane and Gordon, were married in St. Peter's Church. The threatened thunderstorm arrived about an hour before the wedding and lasted for about half an hour, followed by glorious sunshine for the rest of the day. Several of us attended the wedding looking rather different from when we are working in the wood. Some of us donned wellies and GuntonWood caps to form a guard of honour with hoes decorated with white ribbon – what a picture! The bride and groom looked radiantly happy, we wish them every happiness for the future.



### ***Bingo : August 22nd 7pm***

A very enjoyable and sociable evening held at St. Benedict's Church hall, 60 of us had "eyes down" for a game of Bingo. The caller kept us amused with his jokes and kept the evening moving along. David delivered fish & chips for halftime refreshments, followed by tea and coffee, very efficiently provided by Rosemary and her team. The evening finished around 9.30 and all agreed it had been very successful – well done Rosemary, when is the next one?



### ***Trip to Museum of East Anglian Life at Stowmarket September 12th***

The first stop was at Wyevale Nursery and Garden Centre at Woodbridge, where our tea/coffee/scones were ready and waiting. Fruit scones with jam and clotted cream or cheese scones and butter with a helping of crisps - delicious. We had time to wander around the shops before setting off to Stowmarket. On arrival at the museum, a guide gave us a short introduction then we had a few hours to wander around the exhibits, to explore Abbots Hall and to see the rare breed animals and the Suffolk Punches. Crowe St. Cottage was interesting as it had been left just as it was when the last occupant lived there. She was the cook at Abbots Hall but continued to live in the cottage after her retirement. When she finally moved she left a lot of possessions to be used as part of the museum. However, highlight of the day was to see the old Water Mill working, it had been moved from Alton Water and rebuilt at the museum over two to three years. The mill is fed by a pond and for demonstrations a sluice gate is opened and the wheel begins to turn. We were amazed how little water it took to turn the wheel and hence the massive grinding mechanism. The weather was lovely and all agreed it was a very enjoyable and relaxing day.



### ***Teddy Bear's Fun Day : September 15th***



The forecast of wet, windy weather put the event in doubt with the danger of branches falling while children were playing in the woods. However, we decided to go ahead and see if the weather would be kind to us, it wasn't as bad as predicted. In spite of the poor weather we still had a good turnout of families with their teddies, ducks, dogs and various other soft toys of which more than 50 had rides on the zip-wires and bungee-jump, these proved very popular. A new ride this year was the roundabout which was a great success, as were the train rides and, once again, the lovely see-saw,

slide and swing boat.

Tea, coffee, cakes were available in the church annexe and the church had a superb array of Teddy Bear displays which all contributed to an enjoyable afternoon for the children (and adults). Woody Bear's visit caused great excitement, with many children wanting cuddles and photos taken with him. The Deputy Mayor, Cllr Malcolm Cherry kindly came along to judge the Best Dressed Teddy competition.



### ***Snape Christmas Show 2013***

We have a full coach for the Snape trip on Friday 20th Dec for the matinee show. The coach will leave Gunton Church at 1.00pm SHARP picking up also at Glebe Close then The Terminus (Pakefield) and Kessingland. There is a waiting list, please call David on 01502 515944 to go on this list.

### ***Ireland Trip April 27th – May 4th 2014***

There are no places left but there is a waiting list, please call David on 01502 515944 to go on this list.

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### ***Gunton Woodland Burial Park***

The farmer has been given 12 months notice to vacate the Phase 1 area and an application has been submitted to the Forestry Commission for a Woodland Creation Grant. Plans are being finalised to form a Charitable Incorporated Organisation to manage the project.

The Open Day on Sat Oct 19th went very well. There was a steady stream of people, including Peter Aldous, Bob Blizzard, Archdeacon Steven Betts, local Press and representatives of 3 funeral directors. Over £320 made for GWBP funds, some new Friends enlisted, one new volunteer for GWCP, but more importantly the word was spread. The story went together well linking the work of GWCP and GWBP.

### ***Octavia Hill Award***

During the summer, the National Trust together with Countryfile Magazine conducted a nationwide competition to find individuals and groups who are helping to safeguard the environment through the work of volunteers. The awards were presented on September 11th at the London headquarters of the NT. Two members of the GWCP were proud to receive a certificate as runner-up in the Green Guardians section from Dame Helen Ghosh, Director General. There were more than 140 entries and GWCP would like to thank everyone who supported them in the on-line voting.



( Barry Shimmield, Jackie Channing receiving the award from Dame Helen Ghosh.)

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



26 people attended this annual event on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> October. This year the weather was kind and we collected 20 bags of litter using the newly acquired litter pickers kindly provided by Cllr Mr Keith Patience.

### ***What to do on a Wet Thursday Morning!***

If in doubt as to whether the group will be out on a Thursday, please ring David on 01502-515944 or look on the website under EVENTS.

### ***Website***

Our website [www.guntonwoodland.org.uk](http://www.guntonwoodland.org.uk) is now regularly updated, so if you can't wait for your newsletter to find out what's happening, look on our website. NEWS section is what has happened and EVENTS is what's coming up including what we plan to do on the Thursday workparty.

### ***FaceBook***

GWCP now has a presence on FaceBook, still in its infancy but if you are on FB just type in GUNTON WOODLAND in the "Search for people, places and things" section at the top, select GUNTON WOODLAND and that will take you there.

### ***Nature Notes – Gall Wasp***



The photo shows some strange growths on oak leaves, these are Common Spangle Galls and an Oak Apple Gall created by gall wasps (gallflies) as they laid their eggs. There are many different gall wasps creating different galls, although about 70% live in various types of oak trees and galls can be found on nearly all parts of the tree. The larva feeds on the plant, pupates and becomes an adult within the gall. Many other wasps have found a way to penetrate this defence and parasitise the larva(e) within, these may, in turn, be preyed upon by other wasps. So a gall may result in the original gall maker emerging, a parasite of the larva(e), a parasite of the parasite or a combination. The "oak apple", a round, spongy, fruitlike object about 2.5 to 5 cm in diameter may contain about 30 larvae. Gall wasps are usually black and 6 to 8 mm long.