

Gunton Woodland Community Project

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NEWSLETTER

March – April 2016



Gunton Wood

The wood has been looking lovely during the last few weeks, with snowdrops, daffodils and now a magnificent display of bluebells.



We have also made some changes which we hope will enhance the look of the wood. The resurfacing of the main path is complete and large logs have been used as edging, which has finished it off really well. The area around the dog bin has been altered to create space for a new shrubbery area which will eventually provide cover for small birds and will attract bees and insects. The path from the dog bin to Stubbs Wood has been narrowed and the railings have been removed, making it a

much more pleasant meandering woodland path. Some of the old tree shields in the bee & butterfly area have been replaced with new mesh guards and wooden stakes, which not only look better, but will allow rain and sunlight to reach the small trees and plants.



In the B&B area we have planted more evening primrose, some honesty, yellow rattle and clover, all provided by Janet. Some of them were grown from seeds taken from our wild flower meadow, so they have come back to where they belong. We also scattered quite a lot of packets of wildflower seeds, accompanied by a rousing chorus of “we plough the fields and scatter”, from some of the men who were heading back for coffee!

Two trees that were identified in the annual tree inspection as being rotten and in danger of falling over have been removed. One large sycamore near to the main gate was taken down by Waveney Norse and another sycamore near to the top of Moore’s Lane was removed by a group of our Thursday workers.

The men did a really good job of removing such a big tree and quite enjoyed having a large project to get their teeth into. Colin and John were both working with the chainsaws and once the tree was down, it was cut up into large logs for path edging.



We were quite relieved to finally receive some chippings which were immediately put to good use on paths which had become quite bare. We also took several barrow loads of chippings into the school grounds, for the children to spread around in their play area.

We’ve had a few special events just recently:- we had Bucks Fizz at coffee time one week, to celebrate David and Rosemary’s silver wedding anniversary, councillors Keith Patience and Janet Craig came along to see the new surface on the main path, which gave us the opportunity to thank them for their financial support for the project, Liam Holmes from PwH came along to present us with a sponsorship cheque of £1000 and on April 21st we were able to raise our coffee mugs and drink a toast to Her Majesty the Queen on her 90th birthday.



Foxburrow Wood



During the litter pick we noticed that a tree had fallen across one of the paths in Foxburrow Wood, which the Saturday gang dealt with the following week.

Social Events

AGM – Wednesday April 13th 2016

The meeting was attended by 45 members including Cllrs Keith Patience and Janet Craig. The Chairman gave his report on the year's activities and some of the problems encountered during the past 12 months. The accounts were presented and showed a surplus which was larger than previous years due to a Sponsorship from Pleasurewood Hills and donations in memory of two of our long serving members also other cash donations from various members. For these we are extremely grateful. Our guest speaker was Mr. Simon Partridge from the How Hill Trust who gave us an illustrated talk on the history of How Hill from its early days in the 1920's to its present day well used Ecology Centre. His talk was very well received and was one of the best talks we have had over the last 19 years. The existing committee were all willing to stand once again and, as there were no new nominations, were duly elected. The Honorary Auditor Mr. Lawson was also elected to continue for the present year. Our thanks to him. Updates on the various projects for GWCP were presented. The long term work plan for both Gunton Wood and Foxburrow Wood was discussed. Social events were discussed for the last and coming year. The meeting closed at 9.15pm.

Spring Litter Pick – Saturday April 16th

Gunton Woodland Community Project and Gunton Park Residents Association held a spring litter pick on Saturday 16th April 2016, themed '**Clean for the Queen**' as promoted by '**Love East Suffolk**' launched by Suffolk Coastal and Waveney District Councils. Despite the rain, 25 members attended and were each given a free raffle ticket for helping in the litter pick. As well as our 25 members we were joined by 3 members of Tesco staff. The Tesco store very kindly donated the raffle prizes and all the refreshments. 30 sacks of rubbish and some fly-tipped items were collected over a wide area including Foxburrow Wood, Gunton Wood, Leisure Way and the surrounding meadows as far as the disused railway bridge. There is a picture of some of the rubbish and of some of the litter pickers below. It is surprising the amount of litter that accumulates in the course of just a few months.



Orwell River Cruise – Tuesday 12th July

A day river cruise from Ipswich Docks to Shotley HMS Ganges Museum. We board The Orwell Lady at the Ipswich Wet Dock for a cruise up the river Orwell to Shotley Lock where we have a 2 course Fish and Chip lunch with tea/coffee at The Shipwreck Inn. We then proceed to HMS Ganges Museum for a guided tour at the Marina, then rejoin the Orwell Lady for our return cruise to Ipswich Waterfront. Because of the difficulty in turning and parking the coach in Gunton Church Lane on a school day, we will meet the coach at the Vicarage 36 Gunton Church Lane.

Advance notice – Saturday 10th December

We will be organising a trip to the Christmas Spectacular at Snape again this year. It will be Saturday 10th December 2016 for a matinee show leaving Gunton Church Lane at 1.00 pm.

Full details from David or Rosemary Briggs at a later date tel no 01502 515944.

Windsor Trip

If you would like a permanent reminder of the lovely time you had on the GWCP 2016 holiday, then this may be just the thing you need. A 30 minute DVD of the holiday, produced by J & J Moore. Cost is £4, all profits go to GWCP.

Contact Rosemary Briggs on 01502-515944 for your copy.



Edited by John Dickerson

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