

Gunton Woodland Community Project

NEWSLETTER

May – June 2014



Member's Forum

On Monday 28th July at 7pm we have booked Gunton St. Peter's church annex to give an opportunity to members to have an informal meeting to share their views, ideas and discuss any issues they may have with the aim of improving communication and maintaining a good working relationship between all.

All members are welcome, please let David, Rosemary or any committee member know if you are coming so we have an idea of numbers for tea/coffee. If you have something to raise but are unable to attend, please ask a friend to speak on your behalf or drop a line to David to ensure that it is discussed.

Gunton Wood

At this time of year most of the work is about general maintenance of the woodland. This involves keeping the path edges clear, particularly from nettles which can be a hazard for small children, and clearing cleavers and nettles from around the young trees. Some of the benches and notice boards have been painted with preservative and the pond is being kept clear of duck weed and overgrowing vegetation.

The flow pipe into the pond needed clearing, which Barry and his team managed to do, using a rope and some rags! They also filled sacks with soil to use as sandbags to fix a leak in the dam near the pond, which was quite successful, but probably will need a more permanent solution in the future.

Unfortunately, somebody put goldfish into the pond, which is a real problem, because they eat newts, frogspawn and other pond life, and we have to arrange for the environment agency to come and remove them. It might seem like a good idea for people who can no longer keep their fish, to release them into the pond, but it really does cause us a problem. We have now installed a notice asking people to please not put fish into a wildlife pond.

The new flight of steps near the railway bridge has been welcomed by many people. However one of the handrails was removed and thrown into the undergrowth, presumably by someone who disagrees with them being there. We were asked by Pleasurewood Hills if we would install the steps, to try and avoid people having to scramble down beside the bridge, which they felt was dangerous. The access down beside the railway bridge was blocked off with branches and undergrowth, but someone has now removed that, to open up the access again. We have informed Pleasurewood Hills about this and will leave it to them to decide what to do.



We have replaced the old tree trunk bridge between the main footpath and the Pleasurewood Hills field, which was rotting away and becoming unstable.

We were very pleased to receive a cheque for £250 from ASDA, who had money left over from the air show park-n'-walk scheme, which they needed to dispose of. They asked local groups to apply for a share and had nearly 100 applications, so we were delighted to be one of the 25 groups that were chosen. Bev Shipp, the Community Life Champion from ASDA joined us for coffee on Thursday 22nd May to present the cheque.

Foxburrow Wood

There's not been much work in Foxburrow recently, but David, Ollie & John went down on June 26th to clear Himalayan Balsam from the culvert, before it starts flowering and spreading seeds.

Nature Notes



Pyramidal Orchid : One of our members Nick Blacker spotted this rare (for Gunton) orchid in Hubbards Loke. Only the second one we know of in Gunton. This prompted us to check it out on Wikipedia : a hardy plant, average 10–25 cm high. The flowers in a compact pyramidal shape gives the orchid its common name. Colours vary from pink to purple, occasionally white and the scent is described as "foxy". Flowering is from April through July with the flowers being pollinated by butterflies and moths. It requires a sunny spot on loamy or clay soil, it can even grow on very alkaline soil and can be found on meadows or dry and well exposed slopes.

Social Events

Trip to Ireland 27th April - 4th May

For this year's annual trip, we chose to go to Ireland and on the morning of Sunday 27th April, 43 members and friends set off from Gunton Church. We travelled to Wales where we had time to visit the lovely village of Betws-Y-Coed, before travelling to the Bulkeley hotel at Beaumaris. The next day we went onto Holyhead where we caught the Fast Ferry to Dun Laoghaire and then by coach to the Westlodge Hotel at Bantry Bay, where we were based. On Tuesday we had an extra treat by boarding the Jaunty Cars which took us to Ross Castle and had a boat trip on the lake there and then the afternoon was spent at Muckcross house. Wednesday was a full day exploring the Gouganne Barra National Park & the Beara Peninsula. Thursday was a free day to explore nearby Bantry House, or just relax in the village. On Friday we had a full day touring the Ring of Kerry. Unfortunately the weather turned bad so it was decided to cut out the end of the tour and return to the hotel. On Saturday we packed and set off to spend time at the delightful Blarney Castle before making our way to Dooley's hotel via Waterford Crystal. Sunday we made our way to Rosslare to catch the Ferry to Fishguard and then home. Photos of the trip are on our website under the PHOTOS tab. This year's trip unfortunately did not go according to plan and we feel that Belle Coaches and their agents did let us down with some aspects of the tour.



BINGO, Fish & Chips and Raffle - Thurs. 8th May



A very enjoyable evening was held at St. Benedict's Church hall when 57 of us had "eyes down" for eight games of Bingo. The caller, Pat McCade (a cheeky cockney and West Ham fan), kept us amused with his jokes and remarks about Norwich & Ipswich football teams! David delivered the pre-ordered fish & chips for the halftime refreshments, followed by tea and coffee, very efficiently provided by Rosemary and her team. Members kindly donated 28 prizes for the raffle. The evening finished around 9.30 and all agreed it had been very successful – well done Rosemary, we're already looking forward to the next one! This year's event was held as a fundraiser for GWCP as we have lost our major donation from the Lowestoft Air Festival. We raised almost £150.00 and had a great time in the process.

Whisky Distillery and Dad's Army Experience – Thursday June 12th

38 of us set off on a lovely sunny morning for a trip to St. George's Distillery and the Dad's Army museum. We arrived early at the distillery, but the staff soon had the coffee ready and after a short film we had a trip around the distillery, followed by "the tasting". There were several whiskies and whisky liqueurs to taste and some of us took advantage of the tour discount in the gift shop. We also had time for coffee and cake in the sunshine. We then went on to Thetford where we had a couple of hours to relax and have lunch before gathering at the Dad's Army museum. The guides took us on a walking tour of Thetford, visiting places where some of the scenes were shot and also to see Jones's butcher's van, The heat was quite overpowering and some of us were struggling towards the end, however on return to the museum there was a very welcome cup of tea with biscuits and time to watch a short video and look round at the various exhibits and photos.



Duxford Airshow – Saturday September 13th - full (a waiting list will be created)

The coach will leave Gunton Church at 8.15am to arrive at Duxford at 11.00am and we will have a full day at the show to enjoy the delights of the museums and the air display. There are plenty of places to eat or you may also bring your own picnic. The coach will leave for home at 5.45pm. The cost of the trip is £37.50 pp and includes entry to the show 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 July 31st 2014.

Snape Christmas Show 2014 - Saturday December 13th - only 3 spaces left

We leave Gunton Church at 1pm, arrive at Snape 2pm and we'll have time to have lunch or shop before the show. The Show is based on Peter Pan and will take us to Neverland accompanied by Peter Pan, Tinker Bell, Captain Hook and the Darling Children. We'll leave for home after the show and should arrive by approximately 7.30pm. The cost of the trip is £30.50 pp and includes entry to the show 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 2014.

Thank You

GWCP would like to thank Cllr. Keith Patience who organised the necessary funding from his S.C.C. Locality Budget for GWCP's insurance this year.

Newsletter via Email

If you provide any committee member with your email address or send an email to info@guntonwoodland.org.uk we will make sure you receive an email copy and not a printed copy. Nearly half of members (88) have already done so.

Edited by John Dickerson

Web : www.guntonwoodland.org.uk

Email : info@guntonwoodland.org.uk