

## Gunton Woodland Community Project

# NEWSLETTER

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November – December 2014

### REMINDER

The AGM will be on  
Wed March 18th

### Gunton Wood

During the last two months we have started several new projects, which we hope will improve and add interest to the wood.

We managed to plant out most of the trees from the nursery. The majority were put into the area that we had prepared with top soil from the burial park, and a few were planted in the wild flower meadow. The nursery is now quite clear and ready for the 100 or so new young trees and shrubs that we have requested from the Woodland Trust.

We made a good start on building the vertical log pile which we hope will encourage Stag beetles and other insects. The area around the log pile needs building up, so we have started scraping some of the mud from the main path to use for this. We also hope that removing the mud, will expose the hard core surface, which should help to keep the path a bit drier.

We also started preparing an area that will be planted with trees, shrubs and wild flowers, specifically chosen to attract bees, butterflies and insects, and to provide cover for smaller birds. A path near to the top of the wild flower meadow, that we felt was superfluous, has been closed off and should provide a really good area for this purpose. A small hedge of snow berries has already been planted and we hope to purchase more plants in the spring. We had a visit from Mike Foster from Farmland Forestry who gave us help and advice about coppicing. We all had a chance to put into practice what he had shown us and agreed that it had been a worthwhile morning and a pleasant change from the usual Thursday morning jobs.



On Thursday November 27th after coffee, several pupils and tutors from The Foundation Group at Lowestoft College came up to the wood and were shown around by David and John. They were interested in most things relevant to the history of the wood and the information on the notice boards and asked if they might come back again in the summer. We have continued with our normal maintenance and repair work and of course, the ever-present path chipping..

There has been quite a lot of repair work needed to the fence around the pond, partly due to stakes that had rotted, but also to repair a hole someone had created, which was allowing dogs into the pond. We have to try and stop dogs going into the pond, because their claws can damage the liner and cause leakages.

The GWCP bench next to the coffee table had to be repaired, after some of the ladies felt it start to give way while they were having coffee (could it be something to do with the amount of cakes we have with our coffee ??). Two large logs have been wedged underneath, which has secured the seat, until a more permanent repair can be done.

We discovered after Christmas, that more damage has been done to the newly installed 'A' table down on the wild flower meadow. It looks like someone tried to remove it, but our men had done such a good job of building and installing it, that the table could not be completely moved. It will be repaired and re-installed in the coming weeks.



### Gunton Woodland Burial Park - Barry Shimmield

"After weeks of leaden skies and intermittent rain, Saturday December 6th was greeted by brilliant sunshine and, by 9 o'clock, an amazing turnout of 120 volunteers were hard at work. Divided into 6 teams, each responsible for a specific area of the field, spirits were high as they planted 2055 bare rooted whips of oak, hornbeam, field maple, wild cherry, sweet chestnut and small leaved lime in pre-marked locations each one protected with a Tubex Combitube tree shelter. To mark the occasion, a commemorative lime was planted by County Councillor Janet Craig and Harry Hill, Chairman of the Gunton Woodland Burial Trust. As midday approached and the job neared completion, volunteers took advantage of the refreshments provided by the Church ladies at St Peters Annexe. Many GWCP members took part as Team Leaders, planters and helpers and Barry Shimmield would like to thank everyone who contributed to a very successful event, including the extensive preparatory work. Efforts are now concentrated on getting ready for the Second Tree Plant on Saturday 14th February when another 2100 trees and shrubs will be in fill planted." Photo supplied by Mick Howes.

### ***Foxburrow Wood***

There has not been much work going on in Foxburrow only a small amount of coppicing on a Saturday morning, three hazels were coppiced as part of an ongoing coppicing programme.

### ***Nature Reserve - Ray Adcock, SWT Warden***

"The meadow was cut in September and left for two weeks as green hay. We then cleared the hay which took longer than expected due to interruptions by wet weather. We then started the autumn work of clearing the new fencing and tidying up the reserve especially the boundary areas which were becoming quite overgrown. We continued cutting the grass on the paths until quite late autumn. In November we started work on the copse by the main entrance. This area was overgrown with brambles and hawthorn and needed to be opened up to allow more light into the area. Although quite a lot of work has been done, it will take several work parties to complete in the New Year. Unfortunately no work has been carried out on either pond but we hope to carry out some work before the spring."

### ***Gunton Warren Project - Dave Boyle Volunteer Warden.***

"Late summer and Autumn (Sept-Dec) projects on the site were mainly clearance work around more pill boxes, and the gun placement. The Bamboo that was cut down by Dave Burge was burnt, main pathways were cleared, gorse on the North side of the Holme Oaks was opened up to allow access with the tractor for maintenance. A new path was created from the Cliff to the beach, litter picking was completed by our lovely ladies and 2 new welcome signs were installed on Corton Rd entrances. Finally the new fence that was erected in August was broken and had to be re-erected in November, this time very much more secure, hopefully for good this time. In the New year we will be setting up Butterfly and Reptile surveys, and will be looking for volunteers for help in this."

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### ***Social Events***

#### ***Snape Christmas Show 2014 - Saturday December 13th***

60 members and friends travelled to Snape on Saturday 13th December for the annual Christmas Spectacular performed by the Co-op Juniors Theatre Company. The members range from about 5 to 21 years old and run a really professional show. This year it was their 10th anniversary and the show was Neverland based on a version of Peter Pan with Captain Hook as the villain and all the associated characters. The costumes were as brilliant as ever with so many changes throughout the show that your mind boggles as to how they manage it. Over the years one star Anna Watson, who played Wendy, started with the company at the age of 7 and is now 17 and about to go off to drama school. We all enjoyed the visit and everyone said that we should organise it again for next year.

#### ***Slide Show - Friday January 16th at 7pm in St. Benedict's Hall***

Alan Beaumont will be giving a talk and showing slides of the IJW for a show and after a short break Edwina Beaumont will be giving a talk and showing slides on Birds and Wildlife. Entrance by ticket only, tickets are free and available from David or Rosemary Briggs.

**POSTPONED**

#### ***Kent Trip - Friday May 8th to 11th 2015 (full, waiting list started)***

A 4 day, 3 night trip, staying at the Marriot Tudor Park Hotel in Maidstone Kent. Full details are on the website under EVENTS. If you are interested please contact Rosemary or David Briggs to be added to the waiting list.

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### **Second Community Tree Plant will take place on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> February**

on the Church Field, at the end of Gunton Church Lane, from 9 am to 12 noon.

If you wish to join in, please show up at 8.30 am, with a spade, strong shoes and a lump hammer (if you have one) to drive in the tree stake. Your Team Leader will show you how to do it. We also need people to carry the trees and tubes to the planting teams, if you would prefer not to dig. Call David on 515944 or Barry on 562527 if the weather is bad. - *Please note. There will be separate sessions for children in March.*

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### ***And Finally.....***



On Saturday 8th November, Doreen Kent and her family planted a tree in Gunton Wood in memory of her husband Bill Kent. The tree was marked with a simple label to Bill Kent. Doreen was accompanied by her daughter, her son and his wife, and 2 grandchildren. Bill joined GWCP in the late summer of 2008 and he and Doreen joined us all on days out and some longer trips. Bill worked most Thursdays until he was admitted into hospital. He sadly passed away early in 2014.

*Edited by John Dickerson*