

NEWSLETTER

September – October 2014

Would you like to help to ***Plant a New Woodland ?***
On Saturday 6th December 2014, there will be a
Community Tree Plant

on the Church Field, at the end of Gunton Church Lane from 9 am to 12 pm. 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 early next year.

Gunton Woodland Burial Park - Barry Shimmield



Towards the end of September the road, car park and wild flower glade locations were staked out to prepare for the arrival of the groundworks contractor, ADN Surfacing. In mid October work started by moving top soil to the Gunton Wood boundary edge to form an embankment which will be planted next year with flowers and shrubs. More than 900 tons of graded hardcore were brought onto site, distributed and rolled to provide the foundation in readiness for the second phase, scheduled for August 2015, when the top surface will be applied. Final specification of the car park topping is yet to be decided as this still depends on the outcome of on-going submissions to various funding bodies. Lines of shrubbery within the car park will help to disguise its appearance so that, eventually, it will become part of the overall wooded appearance of the entire site.

2000 tree markers are now being positioned, in preparation for the first tree planting session planned for Saturday 6th December. It is hoped that up to 100 volunteers will show up at 8.30 am, some to do the actual planting, others to help by carrying trees, tubes and stakes to keep the teams supplied. For those that can take part, to be able to watch the wood mature and know that they played a part in its creation will be very satisfying, so please join in if you can. The second planting session is now provisionally set for 14th February (rather than January) as there is much pre-locating of tree markers to do. Children's planting days will take place in March.

Early next year, details will be announced of the arrangements for reserving burial plots and it is hoped that the Park will be ready to receive its first "green" burials in January 2016.



Gunton Wood



A lot of time has been spent on the wild flower meadow. Suffolk WildlifeTrust were not able to help us with the cutting this year so we had to use our mower, the strimmer and hand scythes. The men did a really good job with our limited tools, but we were very grateful to Waveney Norse who came along with their mechanical scythe to remove the remaining long grass. We were all working together, cutting, raking and barrowing, and it was really good fun making hay in the sunshine.

We had coffee break down at the meadow starting off with Bucks Fizz kindly provided by David and Rosemary, to celebrate John and Mo's silver wedding and cakes provided by the happy couple. It was a real party atmosphere.



Also that day at coffee time, we had a visit from Gillian and Eileen Gabb, who brought along a donation in memory of Eileen's sister Betty Platt who had recently passed away, and who used to love walking in the woods.

A few people spent the next 2 weeks just finishing off the hay making and then we planted several sacks of daffodil bulbs, kindly provided by John and Julie.

Two repair jobs have also been done on the wild flower meadow. The first was to replace the bench and table that had been damaged beyond repair. The Foxburrow were able to give us 2 of their old 'A' tables, from which the men created one really good solid one. This was painted and installed and should now last for several more years.

There was also a bird table that had been pulled up and thrown into the hedge. This was recovered, repaired and re-installed.



From the old broken table some of the men made a seat to go in Tesco's field, hopefully dog walkers will find it useful. I have tried it and can confirm it's as solid as a rock and very comfortable.

At the Member's Forum we were asked if we could provide more trees and shrubs that were bird, bee and butterfly friendly. The committee decided that the unofficial path leading into the farmer's field would be a good place to start. As the contractor for Gunton Woodland Burial Park had a lot of top soil spare, we asked them for some to cover the path before planting. We had several tons delivered and one Thursday we started moving it, much harder work than shifting wood chips as we soon found out. The following week we finished off moving the top soil, although not quite as we had hoped. During the week we had a complaint from a dog walker about the loss of the path. As a compromise we will only plant the edges not the path.



Another point raised at the Forum was that there seem to be some more habitats being created and that a lot of them are just untidy heaps of branches and not properly constructed habitats. We have put quite a lot of effort into moving, removing and re-building them, so the wood is now much tidier and the habitats that remain are correctly built.

We have done a lot of general maintenance, including re-staking path edges, putting more plantings on the main path, continuing with coppicing, repairing and replacing some broken fences and of course the ever-present path chipping. The latter being more difficult this time of year as we have to rake off the fallen leaves first. David has also built and installed a new gate for the tree nursery.

Usually, we have cakes with tea and coffee to celebrate woodland workers' birthdays, but recently birthdays have been a bit thin on the ground. So, our excuses have been ever more inventive e.g. "anniversary of how long I've lived in my house", "it's my non-birthday", "thank you for taking me to Duxford", "had my dog one year", "finished my treatment" and some from the Woodland Fairies!!! We don't mind what the reasons are, so long as the cakes keep coming we'll keep eating them.

Foxburrow Wood

There's not been much work in Foxburrow recently, we are however, still waiting for Waveney Norse to tackle some problem trees picked up in last year's tree inspection. The on-going problem with the ditches may be nearing resolution, Waveney Norse have trimmed back the undergrowth overhanging the ditch so that the drainage engineer from WDC can safely inspect it to ascertain its condition and if any future works may be required.

Tree Inspection 2014 – Wednesday 15th October

GWCP had its annual tree inspection, attended by several GWCP workers and conducted by Robert Slarke from the Waveney Norse Arboricultural team. It covered Gunton Wood, the green belt alongside Gainsborough Drive and Foxburrow. In Gunton Wood there were only a few dead sycamores and elms to be removed by GWCP, nothing in the wild wood or wild flower meadow, a few dead sycamores near the play area are to be removed. For Foxburrow, GWCP are to continue coppicing hazel, trim back a dead silver birch and thin out the small oaks near Gunton Church Lane gate. Waveney Norse will reduce a couple of trees in Gunton Wood, remove 2 ash trees in the green belt, and reduce/remove a few trees in Foxburrow. The full report is on the website under NEWS and a downloadable pdf version is available under the "About Us" tab.

Social Events

Duxford Airshow – Saturday September 13th



A full coach travelled on Saturday 13th September to Duxford for a full day at their annual 2 day Air Show. We were delighted to see WW1 replica Biplane and Triplane aircraft re-enacting a dog fight, with further fly pasts of many different aircraft. The highlight of the show being the delta winged Vulcan Bomber which circled low roaring over the runway delighting the crowd. It was the first

day of the 2 day show and we therefore missed the flight of the two Avro Lancasters which were scheduled for the 2nd day which also included the Memorial Flight and the Red Arrows. However, we were thrilled by the appearance of Spitfires and Hurricanes. There was plenty to do visiting the many displays and of course the museum. In all we all enjoyed a very good day at the show.

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

David Briggs Chairman GWCP & Ray Adcock Chairman GPRRA.

This was our 2nd litter pick this year and 28 pickers turned out on a lovely sunny autumn morning. They were provided with litter pickers, bags and maps of the area where they were asked to walk and do the litter pick. For the first time, after press coverage, we had been asked to carry out a risk



assessment for the operation. This was printed and shown to all the attendees. 30 sacks of rubbish were recovered together with 2 bikes, 1 scooter, a tent and sundry metal pieces. Also, fly-

tipped garden rubbish was found and this was scattered neatly onto a habitat. It was noticed that there was a reduction of litter in the areas walked but because there is still a covering of seasonal growth more may show over the winter months. Tesco kindly donated the refreshments and 2 prizes for the free raffle.



Many thanks to Tesco and all who attended.

Snape Christmas Show 2014 - Saturday December 13th (full, waiting list started)

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, to be added to the waiting list. Cheques should be made out to GWCP please.

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

Alan Beaumont will be giving a talk and showing slides of the Duxford Airshow 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.

Nature Notes



Leaf-Miner (Conker) Moth causes significant damage to the appearance of horse-chestnut trees. Despite this there is no evidence that damage by the moth leads to tree death. Trees survive repeated infestations and re-flush normally in the following year. It appears that most of the damage caused by the moth occurs too late in the growing season to greatly affect tree performance. Consequently, there is no reason to fell and remove trees just because they are attacked. The larva feeds in a mine in the leaves of the tree, damaging the leaves and stunting growth. Infected leaves are covered in small brown patches which spread rapidly across the entire tree, giving an autumnal appearance.

Eventually the leaves die and drop off; when new ones grow they are again infected. This cycle can repeat itself several times in one season.

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. Over half of members (102) have already done so.

Edited by John Dickerson

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Gunton Wood in Autumn Glory (photo by W.Crowther)