

Gunton Woodland Community Project

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NEWSLETTER

September – October 2015

Gunton Wood



Now that autumn is upon us, we're spending quite a lot of time tidying up and getting ready for winter.

The wild flower meadow and the B&B area have been cut and raked several times and the hedge along the meadow has been pruned. We have cut back the summer's growth from around the Gunton Wood main gate and the Stubbs wood entrance. Vinnie's bridge and Freeman's bridge have also both been cleared. Our photographer, Wally, asked if we could try to clear the pathway alongside Pleasurewood Hills, so that he could get along there in his mobility scooter, so a group went down and sorted that out for him.



There has been a lot of good work done on the pond, to clear the duckweed, remove fallen debris and clear the edges, but it will be left now, so that we don't disturb any over-wintering wildlife.



The ladies have continued clearing the ditch alongside the farmer's field, but did have to enlist the help of some of the men when the mud and fallen branches became too heavy. The men quite enjoyed getting stuck in, until they disturbed a wasp nest and had to beat a very hasty retreat, but not before Colin T was stung on the hand. Since then we have been very watchful and although we've worked close to the nest no-one else has been stung. We have made good progress down the ditch towards the bottom of the field.

Autumn is a good time to plant new trees, so we have spent some time replacing young ones that didn't make it through the summer. A few had died along the main path, some at the back of the church and a few in the B&B area. They are all being replaced. We have also cleared an area near the school fence ready to plant several hazels and one small oak, to try and create a dense area of cover for small birds.

As ever, with winter approaching, we are putting a lot of effort into chipping the paths, so we have had gangs of loaders, wheel barrow pushers and rakers all working flat out. When the task became almost too big for us one week, David brought out our small tractor and trailer, which was very ably driven by Ellie (despite some banter from the men), to transport large loads of chippings down to the end of Moore's lane.



Autumn always brings forth lots of fungi and this year seems to be particularly good and well worth a walk round to see the many different varieties.

In the middle of October David announced that we had clocked up 40,000 hours of work since the project began, which we all felt was quite an impressive achievement for a local volunteer group – well done everyone!

Tree Inspection 2015 – Tuesday 6th 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 Wood. In Gunton Wood there were only a few dead elms to be removed by GWCP, a wych elm to be reduced and some overhanging branches to deal with. In Foxburrow Wood, GWCP are to tidy up the oak logs, keep an eye on an ash tree near the stream, continue coppicing hazel and trim back a dead silver birch. In the green belt GWCP are to replace a snapped-off silver birch with an oak and tidy up a small copse of sycamores by removing those marked. Waveney Norse will remove a couple of rotting sycamores in Gunton Wood and two dead elms in the wild wood. In Foxburrow Wood they will remove an ash tree, reduce the height of a dead sycamore and tidy up large oak branches overhanging a garden fence. The full report is on the website under NEWS and a downloadable pdf version is available under the "About Us" tab.

Social Events

BINGO, Raffle and Fish & Chips – Thursday September 17th 2015

A very enjoyable evening was held at St Benedict's Church Hall when 61 members and friends of GWCP had "eyes down" for 10 games of Bingo and a raffle. David arrived with the pre ordered fish and chips at half time, which was followed by tea or coffee served very efficiently by Rosemary's catering team. Once again, by popular demand, our Bingo caller was that cheeky cockney and West Ham supporter Pat McCade who did a wonderful job keeping us all amused. The evening finished at 9.30pm and all agreed that it had been extremely enjoyable - when is the next one!! Our grateful thanks to everyone who so kindly donated prizes for the raffle, and also to all the helpers.

We raised £179.12 on the evening which will go towards GWCP funds to help maintain our beautiful woods.



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

Sat 14th November 2015 at 9am to 11am (tea at 10.30). GUNTON PARK COMMUNITY Autumn Litter Pick.

This was postponed on Nov 7th due to poor weather and has been rearranged for the above date.

As usual meet at the A12 end of Gainsborough Drive. Please bring gloves and wear stout shoes.

There will be maps with areas assigned to collect litter. Refuse bags and litter pickers will be provided.

If inclement weather please telephone David Briggs on 01502-515944 or 07516-926915 for information.

Guide Dog Walk – Sunday November 15th

Maxine Howarth is organising a sponsored walk from Gunton St. Peter's church on Sunday November 15th, starting between 11am and 1pm. The walk is to raise funds for guide dogs for the blind and will be along the Gunton Wood main path down to Pleasurewood Hills, along the footpath to the railway bridge, up the steps on to the disused railway line back to Hubbards Loke and finishing back at the main gate. The church annexe will be open for toilets, and David & Rosemary will be providing coffee, tea and biscuits at a nominal cost which will also go towards the fund.

Snape Christmas Show - Saturday December 12th 2015 (The trip is now full)

The coach will leave Gunton Church at 1pm to arrive at Snape at 2pm. So there will be time to have lunch or shop and enjoy the delights of the Pre-Christmas atmosphere before the show starts at 4pm. The show this year is based on Alice in Wonderland. The coach will leave for home after the show and we should arrive at Gunton Church by approximately 7.30pm. The price of the trip is £33.50 pp and includes entry to the show with the best seats and the cost of the coach. Cheques should be made out to GWCP please.

AGM – Wednesday April 13th 2016

Windsor Trip - Friday 6th to 9th May 2016 (The trip is now full)

To be added to the waiting list, please contact David or Rosemary Briggs on 01502-515944.

We have organised a 3 night - 4 day trip to Windsor on the above dates through Belle Coaches Holidays for 2016. We will be staying at the Marriot Heathrow/Windsor close to Windsor. The cost of the trip is £339.00 pp with a single supplement of £35.00 pp, limited single rooms available.

GWCP 2016 Calendar

The Gunton Woodland 2016 Calendars are on sale at ONLY £5 each !!

Following on from last year's beautiful calendar of bird photos, this year's theme is "Butterflies" with more stunning photographs provided yet again by Edwina Beaumont.

Don't let this offer "flutter by". There are only a few calendars left.

Ring Rosemary on 01502-515944 with your order.

In Memoriam

We are very sorry to have to report the death of June Sedgley, one of our founder members. June worked with the group from its inception in 1998, until 3 or 4 years ago, when her arthritis finally made it too difficult for her to continue. We were pleased that she could join us for coffee one week this summer, when she came along to celebrate her 90th birthday and it was lovely for us to catch up with her.

It was June who initiated the bringing of cakes for the workparties at the tea and coffee breaks. She brought mince pies for the workers at a December workparty many years ago to celebrate Christmas. Everyone thought it was such a lovely gesture that the idea of providing cakes when it was one's birthday soon became a GWCP tradition.

She will be sadly missed by her many friends.