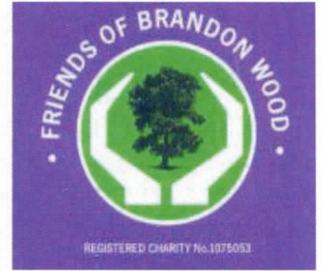


Friends of Brandon Wood Newsletter and Notice of AGM

May 2016



The wonderful display of bluebells in our wood this year

Princethorpe Woodlands Living Landscapes Project

The Living Landscapes schemes, of which there are over 150 in the UK, includes the Princethorpe Woodlands as our local group.

The schemes aim to link core sites together by creating “corridors” that allow wildlife to migrate between the core sites more easily, reducing the chance of isolated populations dying out.

Princethorpe Woodlands includes areas such as Coombe Country Park, Ryton Wood, Brandon Marsh and Wappenbury Wood, as well as our Brandon Wood, together with local government, the Woodland Trust, local land owners and wildlife conservation groups.

The Local Biodiversity Action Plan identifies the Princethorpe Woodlands as “the most important cluster of ancient woodlands in Warwickshire”. The Project aims to: “restore an ancient wooded landscape connected by hedgerows, grasslands,

trees and ponds, full of historical sites, to one rich in wildlife accessible to all”.

So what does all this mean in practice?

Which local woodlands are involved? How can they be connected?

How does our partnership affect the management of Brandon Wood?

How is the scheme funded?

How can members of Friends of Brandon Wood become involved?

I’m sure you are thinking of many other questions!

To answer all these questions and more, we are absolutely delighted that Gina Rowe, Head of Living Landscapes, has kindly agreed to come and explain the work of the Living Landscapes Project at the Friends of Brandon Wood AGM.

Do come to the AGM on 9th June to hear more about this exciting Project.

Opportunities with the Friends of Brandon Wood

The Friends of Brandon Wood is a community organisation completely reliant on volunteers for its organisation and running. There are therefore an enormous variety of opportunities to contribute – to learn a new skill or put existing expertise to use, get some exercise on a working party, or pursue a personal interest to make a contribution.

You don't necessarily even have to leave your own house to help! (I'm at home producing this newsletter.) We would like to increase our presence on social media and someone who knows their way around Facebook, Instagram etc. could certainly use that skill to help us. We also have volunteers who deliver these Newsletters and collect membership subscriptions

We would particularly like to strengthen our management committee of trustees. This is not necessarily particularly time-consuming. We meet once a month for a couple of hours in the evening but there will be some activity between meetings, perhaps reading articles or contributing to e-mail discussion about issues or problems. We each

tend to have some special role within the group depending on our particular interest or experience but we need a balanced group of people with different ideas about the wood and its importance to the community. You don't have to feel that you need special knowledge about woodland management, environmental issues or flora and fauna. We want a group that reflects the local community and recognises the way the wood has a different importance for different people. Some value it for its environmental contribution; others as a place for recreation or exercise; some as a haven of peace and quiet for reflection; some admire its beauty and constant seasonal change, while others just want somewhere to walk their dogs. All these different priorities have to be balanced against each other and it is the trustees who have to make the decisions about how to manage the wood in the best way to meet these different needs.

We would welcome some fresh thoughts and new ideas on this from one or two more people who can give up a few hours a month to help take our project forward.

Can you help?

The Friends of Brandon Wood Annual General Meeting

Thursday 9th June 2016 at 7.30pm

Morrison Room - Binley Woods Village Hall

Agenda

1. Apologies

2. Introduction and welcome

3. Princethorpe Woodlands Living Landscapes

Presentation by Gina Rowe, Living Landscapes Manager

4. Minutes of AGM, 11th June 2015

5. Treasurer's Report

Approval of 2015/16 accounts

Approval to appoint Baldwin McCranor as auditors

6. Election of Trustees

Viv Wood stands down by rotation but offers herself for re-election.

7. Membership Report

8. Woodland Management Report

Progress in the last year and future plans

9. Any other business