

# Friends of Brandon Wood

## Newsletter & Notice of A.G.M.



Spring 2015

### Our New Brochure

This edition of our Newsletter gives notice of our AGM for 2014/15, which is being held on the evening of Thursday June 11<sup>th</sup> this year. We hope that you will attend to let us know what you think about the changes and developments in the management of the wood this last year.

This is a community wood that belongs to our members and the Trustees manage it on your behalf as a local amenity. We need to know what our members want and to hear your views and ideas. We are very lucky to have such an amenity on our doorstep but ownership brings responsibilities and some difficult decisions do have to be made to balance the needs of different groups who want different things from the wood and want to use it for different activities.

We are also distributing our new brochure about the wood at the same time as the Newsletter. Many members have lived in the area since before the Friends of Brandon Wood was formed and participated in the campaigning and fund-raising which finally enabled us to purchase the wood for the local community. We hope the brochure is interesting as a reminder of the history of the wood itself and of how we defended it against plans to destroy it for sand and gravel extraction and potential development.

Many other residents have moved in to the area more recently and we hope that the brochure will also be of interest to you in learning more about our wood and its history.

The publication has been made possible by a generous bequest from Peter Morgan Williams. We hope it will enhance the enjoyment of the wonderful ancient woodland for everyone.

### Why should I be a Member?

The photographs in the brochure are just a few that show what a wonderful woodland we have so close to our homes. Brandon Wood is a place of interest and beauty where we may wander and enjoy all it has to offer. Whatever the season there are paths to explore and interesting plants, birds, animals and insects to discover. It is a Community Woodland managed by the Trustees of Brandon Wood on behalf of the Community.

It would be difficult to maintain the health and safety of our woodland without the generous contributions of our Members. Although the work is carried out largely by volunteers, we still need tools, materials and expert knowledge to help us with the task.

Many of you are Members already and have been for many years past. We thank you all wholeheartedly for your support. If you are not already a member we hope you will join us this year. One of our volunteers will be calling on you soon.

Vivien Wood

Membership Secretary

### Help Needed with Social Media

We are trying to develop the use we make of the internet, both to keep our members informed and to widen interest in the wood and our organisation.

We already have a web site and Facebook page but we need help to maintain these and expand our use of social media. If you enjoy using digital media and have a little time to spare to help us with this, we would be delighted to hear from you.

## Woodland Management

The felling of pine trees has now finished for this season and the trunks will soon be skidded out of the wood to the farmyard gate for removal by our customer.

This has all been due to the hard work of our volunteers, as expected, and without bringing in heavy machinery and contractors. It took time to learn how to use the additional equipment we purchased last year most effectively but it has proved its worth. Although the yield has been low, ruts in the earth and damage to the woodland were minimal, especially compared with the aftermath of the large harvesters and forwarders of previous years!

The additional light penetrating through the canopies in the areas we have thinned will produce noticeable benefit in the coming years.

In addition to the felling, we have installed some nest boxes, made by one of our volunteers, and are also erecting his bat and

kestrel boxes. During the year we commissioned bird survey reports. The conservation recommendations from these are now being followed up.

A commemorative pond has been sculptured, together with a feeder ditch, and this pond needs to be undisturbed in order to get established as a small haven for wildlife.

### **Deliberate damage to the wood**

In the last few months we have experienced a number of incidents of deliberate damage to trees in the wood including the actual unauthorised felling of trees. We would appreciate any information about incidents of this nature.

Andrew Ireland – Woodland Manager

### **FoBW Contact Details**

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## **Friends of Brandon Wood Annual General Meeting**

Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> June 2015 at 7.30pm

**Morrison Room - Binley Woods Village Hall**

### **Agenda**

#### **1. Apologies**

#### **2. Introduction and welcome**

#### **3. Minutes of AGM, 8th May 2014**

#### **4. Treasurer's report**

Approval of 2014/15 accounts

Approval to appoint Baldwin McCranor as auditors

#### **5. Election of Trustees**

Andrew Ireland and Dave Cardus stand down by rotation but offer themselves for re-election.

#### **6. Woodland management report**

Progress in the last year and future plans

#### **7. Membership report**

#### **8. Any other business**