

Friends of Brandon Wood

Newsletter and Notice of AGM

May 2018



Spring at last

A few days of warm weather and the wood has really taken off, displaying carpets of flowers throughout. Wood Anemones (in the picture above) have been very noticeable alongside Primroses, Celandines and Dog Violets. Not forgetting to mention the Bluebells the display of which gradually moves through the wood from the sunny warmer south to the cooler more shady north.

General Data Protection Regulations

You may already be aware that the way organisations, including all charities, are required to collect, store and use your personal data is changing. This is known as the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). Organisations must have a 'legitimate interest' in storing personal data. The Friends of Brandon Wood stores Members names and addresses so that we can deliver Newsletters to you and collect Memberships from you. If you are a Tax payer, you may also have agreed to our holding your personal data so that we can claim Gift Aid based on your Membership subscription.

Our Privacy Policy explains how we protect and use your data. This is available on our website: www.brandonwood.org.uk. We respect your rights and your choice of how we contact you. If you have any concerns about how we store your personal data or how we communicate with you please contact the Trustees by telephone on 03 301 239 215 or email info.brandonwood@gmail.com

You are a valued Member of the Friends of Brandon Wood.

Woodland Management

The forwarding of Corsican Pine trunks from the thinning programme resulted in some muddy ruts in the saturated ground. The work needs to be done in the winter months to minimise wildlife disturbance. The paths have now been made good with the aid of hard core, and in most cases a topping of woodchips.

Spring flowers have been especially vibrant this year, with increases in primroses, wood sorrel, stitchwort, celandine and dog violets; together with the regular bluebells – still almost entirely English.



Wood Sorrel

Ponds have had the reassuringly plentiful crop of frog spawn, and recent newt counts have shown healthy populations.

In recent years we have been delighted to record **Silver-Washed Fritillary** butterflies and last summer the **Purple Emperor**. We are keeping a particular watch for **Grizzled Skipper** this summer, whose numbers in Warwickshire have fallen by 54% since 1976 according to Butterfly Conservation. They are attracted by agrimony and wild strawberry. The gradual increases in open areas are expected to encourage butterflies and moths generally.

Brian Camfield has stepped in to take over the task of fixed-point photography in the wood. He will take quarterly photos from about 40 sites to keep a continuing record of changes over the years.



Grizzled Skipper

Andrew Ireland

The Logging Cart Project

Last February when clearing fallen trees after Storm Doris we discovered the remains of a wooden logging cart, probably around 120 years old. It was suggested that the carpenters and mechanics among the volunteer group should restore it. !!

The major challenge was – can we build 4 large cart-wheels? So, we have now started trials. A major breakthrough at this early stage, in what we expect to be a 2-year project, has been a generous sponsor: Whitmore's Timber, who have agreed to supply the required oak timber. Thanks are also due to Axminster Tools and D.T. Wrights for their support.

When complete, we intend to display the logging cart in the wood.



Rescue of rear axle assembly



Setting up to mortice first wheel hub

Why it is Important to Clean Your Boots

It's perhaps not the first thought that occurs when some errant member of the household is leaving a trail of the stuff across the kitchen floor, but mud, is a remarkable thing. As Bill Bryson notes in his wonderful book on the history of science, if you go out in to the woods and scoop up a handful of soil; "you will be holding in your hand up to 10 billion bacteria, most of them unknown to science. Your sample will also contain perhaps a million plump yeasts, some 200,000 hairy little fungi known as moulds, perhaps 10,000 protozoans (of which the most familiar is the amoeba) and assorted rotifers, flatworms, roundworms and other microscopic creatures." And that's not to mention all the seeds, fragments of leaves and roots, beetles, insects and other invertebrates commonly found in woodland soil. With all that in just one handful its perhaps not surprising that we're asked to clean the mud off our boots to help stop the spread of disease. Dirt getting onto boots, and cars tyres, ever a dogs paws in one location and then falling off again somewhere else is one of the main ways plant diseases spread in the modern world. *By the simple act of cleaning your boots you can play a vital role in protecting the countryside.*

Binley Woods School, Forest School and the Friends of Brandon Wood

Experiencing the outside world is a vital component to children's development and wellbeing and, as at Binley Woods School, we feel that we want our children to develop a sense of awe and wonder at the natural world around them, as well as learning to respect the natural environment and become its guardians of the future. There has been a wealth of research on the positive effects that being outside can have on children and indeed, upon us all!



Over the last 18 months, our partnership with the Friends of Brandon Wood has developed in such a positive way. Viv Wood joining us every Wednesday for Reception's adventures in the woods has been so beneficial for our children and has offered new dimensions to their learning as she brings her own wealth of knowledge and experience as well as her patience and fun! We have also really appreciated the support FoBW have given us in our quest to develop Forest School practice at the school. This support has been in a number of ways; sharing expertise and knowledge, making links with relevant bodies on school's behalf (e.g. Coventry City Council), helping fund the purchase of vital equipment. We have added to our protective clothing so that we can ensure all children can access the woods, purchased rudimentary tools and

storage, tarpaulin, first aid kits and a trolley to transport our equipment.

Initially, we had hoped to establish a Forest School site in Brandon Little Wood but this has had a number of glitches so we thought we would set up this area in our school grounds until we could make an agreement with the City Council over use of an area in Brandon Little Wood. Imagine our delight when the FoBW asked if we would like a Forest School area in Brandon Wood, this will be a fabulous area for us to develop for Forest School work! We can't begin to thank you all enough for all the effort you have given on our behalf. And we look forward to working in continued partnership with you all.

Hilary Wilson
Reception teacher/Forest School Co-ordinator
Binley Woods School



Paws for thought

There has been a great improvement in owners clearing up after their dogs.

Some dog waste bags however get left behind.

Please can people make sure bags are taken away? There are 2 bins at each entrance to the wood from Binley Woods. Sealed bags can also be deposited in any of the street bins if that is easier.

This will help to continue to improve the environment for everyone's enjoyment. Many Thanks

Annual General Meeting

Thursday 14th June 2018 at 7.30pm

Morrison Room - Binley Woods Village Hall

Agenda

1. Apologies

2. Introduction and welcome

3. Minutes of AGM, 8th June 2017

4. Treasurer's report

Approval of 2017/18 accounts

Approval to appoint Baldwins as auditors

5. Election of Trustees

Andrew Kirby and John Sells stand down by rotation but offer themselves for re-election.

Anne Sinclair Taylor to stand as a new trustee.

6. Woodland management report

Progress in the last year and future plans

7. Membership report

8. Any other business

Follow the 'Woodland' Code:

Remember to treat 'our' woodland with respect.

Protect plants and animals and take your litter home

Keep to the designated paths

Keep dogs under close control and pick up after them

Ensure you are wearing suitable footwear and clothing

Consider other people—give a greeting and a smile!

Need some firewood?

Call **Andrew Kirby** on **07976
266208**

for good quality timber from our woodland

FoBW Contact Details

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