

Friends of Brandon Wood

Newsletter and Notice of AGM

May 2019



Hedge Laying

In January of this year the working party laid the hedge in front of the Jubilee Pond. This work had two objectives, to provide a lasting and effective barrier in front of the pond and to keep the hedge at a height so that visitors can see the pond.

Hedge laying is a country craft which has been practised for hundreds of years. The correct management of our hedgerows is essential if we are to conserve our wildlife and landscape for future generations. Sympathetic management allows blossom and berries to form, allows the hedge to slowly and incrementally increase in size and keeps the hedge in a healthy condition. A laid hedge provides a stock proof barrier and a dense habitat for wildlife but most importantly it encourages new growth that starts a new life cycle of the hedge.

The posts and binders that were used to construct the hedge are Hazel that came from our own Hazel coppice.

Woodland Report

We finished our conifer thinning for the season just after the end of March, and have done well. This work was carried out by our volunteers, without contractors, and has been left very tidy. Ride verges have been opened up a little more, and we expect to see extra flowers and perhaps more butterflies this year – depending on the weather.

Woodland Report cont.

Some tree halos have been cleared, freeing mature trees from close competition. This will make them more visible and appreciated by visitors, as well as more vigorous. The Green Pond is looking good and more mature after the extensive cleaning up of the whole site there in winter 2017/18.

The planned All-ability Path is embryonic as yet but is planned for completion later this year. This will enable less able visitors to access the wood easily.

We seem to have more visitors to the wood and many are dog walkers. We have much less dog mess now and thanks are due for this appreciable improvement to our paths and verges. There is much less motor bike activity too.

The work parties are always friendly and good fun. Why not join us and be a part of the team. We meet on Wednesdays (weekly) and Sundays (monthly); but check first! Please call Andrew on 7644 1009.

Andrew Ireland - Woodland Manager

Dunsmore Living Landscape

The Dunsmore Living Landscape scheme is undertaking oral history interviews with local residents to collect memories of the Binley Colliery. The colliery used to occupy the site where Claybrookes Marsh nature reserve is now. It opened in 1911 and was a working mine until the 1960's. Once it closed, the colliery site became derelict. It became a nature reserve after opposition from local residents over proposals to turn it into a business park. Interviews aim to collect people's memories of the colliery, as a place of work when it was active, as a make-shift playground after its closure, or just of its local presence. Contact Jake McAlister at Brandon Marsh (02476302912) if you would like to contribute.



Annual General Meeting

Thursday 13th June 2019 at 7.30pm

Morrison Room - Binley Woods Village Hall

Agenda

1. Apologies

2. Introduction and welcome

3. Minutes of AGM, 14th June 2018

4. Treasurer's report

Approval of 2018/19 accounts

Approval to appoint Baldwins 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

Need some firewood?

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

for good quality timber from our woodland

FoBW Contact Details

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