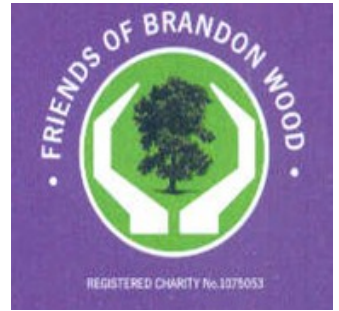


Friends of Brandon Wood Newsletter and Notice of AGM



Woodland Management

Now that winter has gone, what a delight it is to walk through the wood on a sunny day with the sights, sounds and scents which only ancient woodland has.

Most flowers have a short duration and are replaced by other species, so they need to be appreciated while they are in bloom; and we do have many species, some rare.

The thinning of pines went to plan again last winter, and the more-open areas are responding well to the additional light on the woodland floor.

Our members will know that we have regular tree inspections to ensure the safety of users while in the wood. We have recorded an unusual number of pines in an area near the Ferndale Road entrance which have either developed

basal decay, limb dieback or movement.

Unfortunately, several trees came down when we had strong winds earlier this year. Others are showing signs of movement or decay. In some cases they are very close to paths. The continual compacting of the roots starves the tree of oxygen making it less stable. We have, therefore, marked them with orange paint. These trees are being regularly monitored for possible felling before next winter's winds.

The Ferndale Road area is particularly important because it is well used and has many paths. In addition the trees are large and tall. We do our very best to keep our visitors safe.

Andrew Ireland

Work on the Three Pond Project Begins

The three small ponds are on the southern edge of the Brandon wood near Brandon Farm. The aim of Project is to improve pond habitat and is supported by Warwickshire Ecology as part of their 2019 Biodiversity Action Plan. Phase 1 took place in January and February this year. Timing was critical, as stipulated by an Ecological Method Statement, to minimise any potential adverse impact on greater crested newts (a protected species) and other wildlife. Brash and overhanging trees were cut back and a large tree trunk removed, enabling excavation of two of these densely shaded and neglected ponds. An ancient connecting ditch was also opened up.

Many greater crested newt breeding ponds have disappeared across the country due to neglect. In woodland this is mainly due to excess shading from trees and scrub which causes water to become too cold for juveniles to thrive. Greater crested newts have been recorded in other ponds in Brandon Wood. It is hoped, that by restoring the Three Ponds additional suitable habitats to support greater crested newts as well as other wildlife will be created. (Already frog spawn has appeared in Pond 1).



Anne Sinclair Taylor

Annual General Meeting

Thursday 9th June at 19:30, Morrison Room, Binley Woods Village Hall

Agenda

1. **Apologies**
2. **Introduction and welcome**
3. **Minutes of AGM, September 2021**
4. **Treasurer's Report**

Approval of 2021 accounts

Approval to appoint Azets as auditors

5. **Election of Trustees**

Anne Sinclair Taylor stands down by rotation but offers herself for re-election.

6. **Membership Report**
7. **Woodland Management Report**

Progress in the past year and future plans

8. **Any other business**

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for good quality timber from our woodland

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