

Sadlers Wells Community **Woodland CIO**

Registered Charity Number 1171849

Newsletter No. 25 – Autumn 2019

Welcome to our latest Newsletter.

General News

1. A visit to the Wood in early May showed that the bluebells planted a few years ago were spreading although it was more obvious from leaf growth than actual flowers. Let's hope that they will come into flower in the next few years. The bluebells in the New Plantation have however spread considerably and were flowering well; you may remember from one of the early Newsletters that these are not bluebells which we have planted but have grown naturally presumably from plants or seeds which were dormant in the ground when we took it over and which had been previously suppressed by the cattle grazing the land.

Other flowers in bloom included Red Campion, Purslane and the Greater Celandine near the entrance. All the time the birds were singing beautifully including blackbirds, great tits and warblers such as chiff-chaffs and blackcaps. Birds can be identified by their songs and calls as well as sight and many people recommend that when you visit a wood, you should just stand still, close your eyes and listen and you will hear things that you would otherwise miss. It's a pity about the traffic on the A49 though!

2. The new boundary fence was eventually erected at the end of July by Richard Reeves Fencing. It looks much stronger than the previous one and let us hope that it

lasts many years.

3. Village Day saw us with the usual stand; several new members joined the Friends of the Wood and the regular quiz was held. This time the subject was the identification of trees. The winner of the main quiz was Nicola Bird and the winner of the children's quiz was Mia Anderson.

4. Further thinning of the new plantation is underway to give the remaining trees more space. Those that are felled will be left in habitat piles to provide shelter for the inhabitants of the Wood and to rot down and provide food for innumerable insects and other invertebrates which in turn will provide food for birds, animals and others higher up the food chain and benefit the ecosystem. Dead wood is always a valuable resource in this way and we will always leave as much as possible provided that there is no risk or danger.

Autumn Seed dispersal

The autumn season of mists and mellow fruitfulness brings many sorts of seeds and fruit from both trees and other plants and their parents are keen for the seeds and fruit to be dispersed as widely as possible; this is achieved in five different ways, most of which have a strange sounding technical name.

Barachory relies on simple gravity where heavy fruit and nuts, such as chestnuts, conkers, apples and plums, simply fall to the ground with the fruit often breaking open as a result of the fall.

Zoochory uses and rewards dispersal by animals and other creatures, such as the dropping of seeds from fruit that has been eaten and also seeds such as burrs and cleavers which attach themselves to hosts to be carried away. Acorns are also frequently buried in various places by squirrels and jays for eating during the winter months, but many of them are forgotten and survive to sprout as little oak trees in the Spring.

Anemochory involves air travel and includes the likes of dandelion seeds and the winged seeds of sycamore and ash, known variously as keys, samaras, helicopters or spinners.

Autochory is the flinging of seeds far and wide by seed pods which can often be heard popping such as those of gorse and on a lesser scale the pods of weeds such as bitter cress.

Finally, there are seeds such as birch and alder which are light and rely on falling into a stream to be carried away downstream to colonise new areas.

Nature has evolved many ways to help the next generation to become established.

Hibernation

Now is the time of year when those animals and insects who hibernate for the winter begin to make their preparations by feeding up to lay down stores of fat to sustain them and preparing their hibernation sites. Spare a thought for those such as the American Wood Frog which hibernate in extremely cold conditions in places such as Alaska. They have evolved a process where they produce in their bodies urea and glucose to protect their organs so that they actually freeze during the hibernation process and still survive to wake up again the following spring.

Sadlers Wells needs YOU!

In the last Newsletter, a plea was made for help in running the Charity but unfortunately we are still waiting for offers.

Help is needed to keep the Wood maintained so, if you are a regular user of the Wood or a supporter of the Wood, can you assist? We are looking in particular for a

volunteer to undertake the various administrative tasks which have to be carried out in running the Charity. The time involved is not great but help is needed to run and maintain the Wood which is a great amenity for the Village, so please offer your services so that the good work can continue for the benefit of those who enjoy what the Wood has to offer. Please contact me or any of the other trustees and we will let you have further details. Most of the time it would only involve an hour or two a week, with a little more around the end of the financial year.

Friends of the Wood

The annual subscription is still a minimum of £5-00 each and the 2019/20 subscription became due on 1st April. The wood produces no income itself and we therefore have to raise all the money needed to pay for insurance, maintenance, etc. Your subscriptions are therefore very valuable to us, not only in themselves but also because they show a commitment from the local community.

Payment of any outstanding subscriptions would be greatly appreciated. If you did not receive a reminder a few weeks ago, yours is not overdue. Payment should be made in the same manner as previous years with the slip at the end of this Newsletter either to Michael Bourne or Bob Harris whose details are given below; cheques should be made payable to **Sadlers Wells Community Woodland CIO**. Please ensure that the full name is used as I have heard from another organisation that several banks in the interests of 'efficiency' are now checking cheques electronically and that this 'efficiency' means that the sorting machine can only recognise the cheque if the payee's name matches exactly the name of the account into which it is being paid, so that, for instance, a cheque might be rejected if the CIO was left off. Payment can now also be made by standing order and, if you would like to do this, please indicate accordingly on the slip and we

will send you the relevant information.

Privacy and Data protection

The only information which we hold is contact details (name, address, telephone and e-mail) and details of donations and subscriptions paid.. We will not sell or share this information with any third party and it will be used only for sending out copies of our Newsletters, subscription reminders and occasional notices of functions and requests for assistance such as work parties. If you wish your name to be removed from our contact list, please let us know in writing – details as below

Full details of our Privacy and Data Protection Policy appear on our website.

And finally

The problems and decline of the British population of cuckoos is well known, but less well known is the remarkable problems which young cuckoos face when they fledge. They have no guidance from their parents who they never meet and the parents make their return migration only a couple of months or so from their arrival in this country. A young cuckoo is also unlikely to meet and recognise any of its siblings yet it must know when it is time to migrate south for the winter, where to go to and when to return. As far as is known, young cuckoos must rely entirely on instinct without anyone to guide them.

Contact us

Chairman and Editor

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Trustees of the Charity Michael Bourne (Chairman),
Dr Katherine Hutchinson (Vice- Chairman), Bob Harris,
Andy Fairclough, Andy Moore, Ron Pulford, Peter Tonge
and Nicola Badger.

Friends of Sadlers Wells Wood -- Subscription 2019/20

Name(s)

Amount (min. £5 per person)

Cheques should be made payable to **Sadlers Wells Community Woodland CIO.**

I/we confirm our consent to you holding our contact details on your list of Members of Friends of the Wood until further notice.

If you would like to pay your subscriptions by a Bank Standing Order, please tick this box and we will send you further details.

Date

Signed

This should be completed and signed by all who wish to remain on our mailing list. Those who receive complimentary copies of the Newsletter can either delete or ignore the reference to payment of

subscriptions.