

Sadlers Wells

Community Woodland

Registered Charity Number 1105117



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Newsletter No. 19 – Autumn 2015

Recent News

1. At Village Day this year, we had a stall to ourselves as the organisers decided not to have the large marquee which we had shared for the last few years. As ever, Village Day provided a good opportunity to meet Friends of the Wood and to make ourselves known to others in the Village who might not know what we do or even that the Wood exists. We managed to collect £165-00 on the day in subscriptions, donations and five new memberships. The quizzes again proved popular; all correct entries were put into a draw for a suitable prize. The quiz for adults was to identify baby birds (as distinct from adult birds which might look quite different) and caused some difficulty with the prize going to Maya Fowler of The Highlands. The children's quiz was to identify minibeads, a popular subject and all the entries we had were correct. The entry drawn for the children's prize was from Harvey Jones of Alraham.
2. In the Spring, we commissioned an expert survey of all the mature trees in the Wood and this has revealed a number of trees that need attention for safety reasons and a few that need felling or substantial reduction in their height. At the moment we are resolving a few queries on the Report and, when that has been done, the next stage will be to seek approval from Cheshire East for the work to be carried out as all the trees in the old part of the Wood are the subject of a Tree Preservation Order.
3. Damage was recently caused to the smaller of the two bridges in the new plantation by horses being ridden through. The paths and bridges are not designed for horses and the horse and rider were lucky that no serious injury was caused when the horse's hoof went through one of the planks of the bridge. Fortunately, the wire

covering held firm so that the horse's leg did not go right through. We must insist that the woodland paths are used for pedestrian purposes only. The bridges are not designed to take a horse's weight and hooves will damage the footpaths.

4. There have been changes in the trustees recently. Alyson Thacker has now retired as a trustee as she has ceased to be the head of Bunbury School and it is hoped that the new Head, when appointed, will be willing to act in her place as the use of the Wood for education purposes is one of our main objects. Quite separately, Andy Moore of Darkie Meadow has recently been appointed as an additional trustee and is keen to help with the maintenance of the Wood.

5. The working party on 3rd October was unfortunately small in number but we managed to clear around the outdoor classroom area and cut back the branches adjacent to the footpath to the new plantation. Another Friend of the Wood had previously cut back the holly along the lower footpath in the old Wood.

Chairman's Notes

Autumn is already upon us and leaves are beginning to change their colour. Horse chestnuts are always amongst the first to show their leaves and the first to lose them. The small leaved limes and the field maples in the New Plantation are already changing colour and the others will no doubt follow.

On 23rd January next, it will be ten years since the purchase of the Wood was completed. We then just had time to plant out the new plantation before the start of that growing season and the success rate of planting was excellent as has been the subsequent growth of the trees. We shall no doubt have a little celebration during the course of next year and details will be circulated in due course.



Meet the Trustees **No. 11 – Andy Moore**

Andy was born and raised in Southwell, Nottinghamshire and moved to Bunbury in

1987 with his wife Christine and daughters, Joanna and Lynsey. His son, Richard, was Bunbury born and bred. His three children all attended Bunbury School and afterwards Tarporley High School.

Andy has had a varied working life, starting as a Navigating Officer in the Merchant Navy and enjoying travel to many parts of the globe. In 1979 he graduated with a BSc in Nautical Studies from the then Liverpool Polytechnic. In 1981 he went to Northern Nigeria and managed an oil container terminal in Kanu. A second terminal opened in Kaduna where he was also in charge. In 1985 he moved to Shetland where he worked as an Operations Controller in the off-shore oil industry.

His move to Bunbury came in 1987 whilst working at Ellesmere Port looking after coal exports from England to Northern Ireland. He became redundant in 1991 but qualified as a driving instructor which he continued doing until he retired 21 years later in 2014.

During his time in Bunbury, he has served on the PTA of Bunbury Aldersey School and was a founder member of Bunbury Cricket Club when it was re-formed in 1993.

His hobbies and interests involve travelling, a little golf, walking the dog, following cricket and helping with three young grandchildren.

He considers Bunbury is a special place – friendly, caring and extremely sociable, and that it will be a pleasure to help at Sadlers Wells Wood.

Biodiversity

Biodiversity means of course encouraging a greater number of different species, but how many can realistically be expected? A staff member and recorder from the British Trust for Ornithology thought that he would try to find out and set himself a target of 1000 species over 2013 in a one kilometre square around his home which fortunately was on the edge of a village and contained a variety of different habitats. He was able to reach his initial target in July and at the end of the year, his final total was 1406 species including 91 birds and reportedly 519 different moths and butterflies.

The BTO reckon that there may be as many as 60,000 different species in the British Isles. There are, for instance, approximately 7000 species of flies, 4000 species of beetle, 2400 species of moth and 9000 species of wasp; 250 types of wasp can sting but only 9 species in the UK are social with communal nests. The remainder are solitary species including parasitic wasps which prey on other insects and some species are so small that they are difficult to identify without a microscope. There are some 600 species of spider all of which can bite but not many that could seriously bother humans; twelve are actually venomous but again few could cause serious harm.

To try to identify as many species as possible within a given area would therefore mean that you need considerable expertise (or help) in identifying all sorts of species including insects, fungi, plants, grasses and other organisms as well as the easier animals, trees, birds and butterflies.

How many species do we have in the Wood? It is very difficult to tell. We have had a survey of the trees, plants and birds but there must be hundreds or even thousands of other things not included in those surveys.

Chicken of the Woods

One species of fungus that we do have in the Wood occasionally is



Chicken of the Woods (*laetiporus sulphureus*), a bracket fungus that is found in many parts of the World. It is bright yellow in colour when young and has a soft texture and no gills; it is particularly fond of oak trees as can be seen from the attached photograph which was taken in the Wood a few years ago.

When young it is reckoned to be edible with a taste somewhat like chicken but others consider its flavour dubious and that specimens which are old or growing on conifers or eucalyptus can be bitter or even poisonous so eating

one is inadvisable unless you are a fungus expert.

It grows, as can be seen, in large multiple brackets and can be found from summer onwards, earlier than most other fungi which appear in Autumn. It can grow as a parasite on a living tree or on a decaying one. It is rarely in itself a danger to the host tree but can weaken a host so that it is more susceptible to high winds. It has apparently been known to attack ships timbers in the past.

Friends of the Wood

The annual subscription is a minimum of £5-00 each and the 2015/16 subscription became due on 1st April last. Many thanks to those who paid promptly; A further reminder will be sent to those outstanding so please do not pay twice! Payment can be made 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. Gift Aid is a valuable source of income and we would appreciate subscriptions being gift aided if you are able to do so and have not already done it. The amount of Gift Aid on a single subscription is only small but the total amount we get each year is significant, the amount received this year being £145.50.

For next year, we will be introducing an option to pay by Bankers Order now that we can do this having changed our banking arrangements. It will save you worrying whether you have paid and for one or two cases each year it will avoid paying twice. We hope that it will make things easier for everyone. Further details will be circulated in the New Year.

And finally

If anyone has any comments or queries regarding this Newsletter or the wood generally, please write or e-mail our Chairman, Michael Bourne. We would appreciate response from

members to let us know whether we are heading in the right direction. As mentioned in previous newsletters, if you see anything unusual or interesting in the wood, please let us know by telephone or e-mail as we would like to make a record.

Contact us

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

Friends of Sadlers Wells Wood -- Subscription 2015/16

Name(s)

Amount (min. £5 per person)

Cheques should be made payable to Sadlers Wells Community Woodland.