



**Registered Charity Number
117184**



Newsletter No. 33 Autumn 2023

Summer Family Working Party

Following on from the success of last year's Working Party Jess organised a second Summer Family Working Party on 12th August.

Six children from three different families came along and helped to tackle the holly along the banks of the stream, with ages ranging from the youngest at just three years up to ten years! Children learned to use the saws and loppers safely, with cuttings sorted in to piles to create wildlife habitats. Efforts were rewarded, as always, with a biscuit break halfway through and an enjoyable and rewarding morning was had by all!



Also, many thanks to Anne and John Quinn who were also there and helped to supervise the children as well as doing their fair share of work.

Jess Hitchmough

Latest News

Our next Working Party will take place on Saturday 11th November between 10.00 and 12.00. There is work to do reducing the holly bushes in some areas of the old wood and keeping the newly cleared area along the side of the stream free from brambles at least until it gets a covering of flowers and greenery which should help reduce the growth of new young brambles provided we keep them down initially.

So, there is plenty of work to do and if you can spare an hour or two please do come along and help. It would be helpful in the planning if you could let us know if you will be able to come along.

This is best done by either phoning or emailing Katherine Hutchinson on

01829 260112 or katherine@spurstow.com

Die-back

The photo below shows a branch affected by die-back and it nicely illustrates the characteristic linear damage to the bark which has changed colour and cracked as the tree tries to compensate for the death of the end of the branch by making new growth from where the diseased bark starts. Then some of the new growth dies again as shown by the central twig turning brown and orangey. New twigs develop either side of the dead twig in the centre as the tree again tries to continue growing.



Katherine Hutchinson

Autumn Working Party

On Tuesday 26th September Derek arrived once more with his chainsaw and cut down several more of the trees affected by ash die-back. This was very successful, with only one tree landing straight across the path and needing clearing away immediately. It then rained very heavily the next day but the rain passed and by Saturday we had another pleasant autumn day.



On Saturday 30th therefore, a band of volunteers comprising John and Anne Quinn, Joy and Sean Pendleton, Katherine and Stephen Hutchinson with support from Dave Clapperton and Andy Moore assembled and cleared the trees into nice habitat piles as has become our usual way of spending these pleasant Saturday mornings.

Now as we walk around the wood there is a feeling of more spaciousness and nearly all of the remaining Ash continue to look healthy so we continue to hope they will prove resistant enough to continue to thrive and grow.



We can also see habitat piles of varying ages. The older ones are getting nice fungal growths, flaking bark where insects can live and other signs of the cycle of growth and decay that should be present in balanced woodland. It encourages me greatly that our woodland is playing its small part in the natural world when not all areas are being managed to allow this.



We may have to do a little light thinning of the Oak trees, which have of course been growing more slowly and as a few damaged ones have already been removed this should not be too large a task.

I am hopeful that the constant need to take down and clear so many Ash trees will reduce.

Once again, many thanks to all those who came along to help.



Katherine Hutchinson

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Website; Latest News

Our website has now been incorporated into the Bunbury Village website.

Everything that was contained in the old website has been transferred across and you can view all relevant pages by going to

www.bunburyvillage.info

and then choosing Village Facilities and then Sadlers Wells Wood.

Dave Clapperton

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

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Friends of the Wood

The annual subscription remains a minimum of £5.00 per person and the 2023/2024 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.

If you have not yet paid for this year and wish to continue to subscribe and to receive information regarding the Wood and the Newsletters then please complete the subscription form on the following page.

If you are paying by cash or cheque then please return the form and subscription to Dave Clapperton, Bob Harris or any of the other Contacts whose details are given above.

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Signed;

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