

Sadlers Wells Community Woodland

Registered Charity Number 117184



Newsletter No. 26 – Spring 2020

The times they are a ‘changing – again!

In 2013, I wrote about the changing of the guard and I am pleased to say it has happened again. On 24th April we held an electronic meeting by e-mail in view of the current restrictions and Katherine Hutchinson was appointed to take over as Chair and I moved to vice-chairman. Dave Clapperton kindly volunteered to take over the administration of the Charity and was appointed as an additional trustee and Clerk. A change of personnel every few years is good as it brings in new ideas and a fresh impetus.



Katherine has been a trustee for around fifteen years having been nominated by Spurstow Parish Council of which she is also now Chair. Spurstow have the option to nominate a trustee because the new plantation to the south of the stream is actually in their Parish.

Dave Clapperton has lived in Bunbury for over thirty years and is well known to many. The handing over of various responsibilities to him is well in hand.



Peter Tonge has resigned as a trustee and we would like to thank him for his advice and expertise on conservation and woodland management over the past few years. It leaves a gap which we would like to fill and if there is anyone out there, or if you know of anyone, who could provide as a volunteer advice on woodland and habitat management, please let us know.

Woodland Maintenance



A tree had fallen near the northerly boundary and, although it had not crashed to the ground, it was wedged against a nearby tree. Cheshire East were notified under the terms of the Tree Preservation Order and it has now been taken down by Monkey Business. Other outstanding safety work including the felling of a dangerous, dead larch and the partial felling of several dead oak trees has now also been completed.

These troubled times

Everything has changed over the past few weeks with lockdown and other restrictions due to the present coronavirus pandemic. Sadlers Wells Wood remains open subject of course to social distancing requirements and we know that many have appreciated the space and opportunity to walk in a natural environment. It is hoped that it will not be too long before things are back to a more normal situation.



Website

Dave Clapperton is working towards bringing our website up to date to show the recent changes and also to add some further information. He will, in particular, be looking at the section marked "The Gallery" to add suitable photographs. If anyone has any photographs taken in the Wood or anything others that are relevant, he would be delighted to hear from you.

Carbon Storage

It is well known that trees are good for capturing and storing carbon dioxide to combat global warming and I hope that Sadlers Wells makes its own contribution to this, however small the contribution is. It is said that a tree can absorb up to 22kg a year and we have several hundred.

The recent issue of the RSPB magazine makes an interesting and surprising comparison, namely that one of the great whales can account for 33,000 kg of carbon dioxide over its lifetime. Furthermore, whales are followed by phyto-plankton and these tiny plants absorb almost 40% of all carbon dioxide which is equivalent to four times the amount absorbed by the Amazon rainforest. Assisting the recuperation of whale numbers should therefore be a priority as it is said that an increase of 1% in phyto-plankton could absorb around an extra billion kg of carbon dioxide a year. Looking after our oceans seems very important.



Cuckoo spit

Now is the time of year when you find what is known as cuckoo spit on the stems of plants usually wedged in a fork where a leaf joins the main stem. It is well known that this has nothing whatever to do with cuckoos but is caused by a mini-beast known as a froghopper or at least its nymph. The nymph feeds by attaching itself to the plant and tapping into the veins in the plant through which the sap moves. It does not need to drink as the pressure of the flow of the sap is sufficient. It needs about a thousand times its own bodyweight in sap each day but the amount available well exceeds this and the surplus is expelled through its rear end in bubbles. The bubbles not only hide the nymph but also protect it from predators who are deterred by the prospect of having to wade through the slimy bubbles to find a meal.

The adult froghopper has a pair of special legs which are spring-loaded and not used for walking at all. When danger threatens, the spring can send this 6mm creature a distance of some 60/70cm (or about 100 times its own length) at a force which is reckoned to be about 400 times that of gravity.

Friends of the Wood

The annual subscription is still a minimum of £5-00 each and the 2020/21 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.

Notification for the payment of subscriptions has been sent out separately to those on e-mail and we are grateful to those who have already responded. Otherwise payment should be made in the same manner as previous years with the slip at the end of this Newsletter to Dave Clapperton, Bob Harris or any of the other Contacts 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 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

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

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.

Contact us

Chair;

Dr Katherine Hutchinson

Laburnum Cottage, Peckforton Hall Lane, Spurstow CW6 9TG

Tel; 01829 260112

Email; katherine@spurstow.com

Vice-Chairman and Editor;

Michael Bourne

Long Acre, Wyche Lane, Bunbury, Cheshire CW6 9PS

Tel; 01829 260944

Email; mjbourne249@tiscali.co.uk

Clerk;

Dave Clapperton

5 The Hawthorns, Bunbury, CW6 9SJ

Tel; 01829 261218

Email; dave.clapperton@gmail.com

Bob Harris

Nook Cottage, School Lane, Bunbury CW6 9NX

Tel; 01829 260011

Email; harrisrobert357@gmail.com

Sadlers Wells Wood website;

www.sadlerswellswood.org.uk

Trustees of the Charity

Dr Katherine Hutchinson

Michael Bourne

Bob Harris

Andy Fairclough

Andy Moore

Ron Pulford

Nicola Badger

Dave Clapperton

Friends of Sadlers Wells Wood; Subscription 2020 - 2021

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 Standing Order, please tick the box below and we will send you further details.

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Signed;

Date;

