

# **Sadlers Wells Community** **Woodland CIO**

Registered Charity Number 1171849

## **Newsletter No. 23 – Summer 2018**

### **A new trustee – Mrs Nicola Badger**

We are very pleased to say that Mrs Nicola Badger has agreed to be an ex-officio trustee of the Charity in her capacity as the head of Bunbury School. As you know, the School have made regular use of the Wood over the years and our Constitution has always provided that the head of the School for the time being can be one of the trustees.

### **Our new Constitution**

I have written previously about the change of the charity's status into a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO). The CIO accordingly took over the general running of the Wood from the original Charity with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2017, the commencement of our financial year as originally intended.

The only thing outstanding is the formal transfer of the freehold of the Wood to complete the transfer of assets. This is unfortunately taking some time and we are pressing for it to be completed so that the original Charity can be wound up.

### **Beetles**

Beetles are one of the most numerous types of insect on Earth. There are at present some 400,000 species of beetle that have been scientifically recorded and the estimates of the number that have not yet been recorded and officially described vary from around three million to thirty three million so that even the scientists cannot do more than guess. There are beetles virtually everywhere except the oceans, having adapted to a variety of different environments from caves to deserts and living in fresh water.

The largest beetle is the Brazilian Longhorn (*titanus giganteus*) which can reach up to 17cm and only just fit into the palm of a hand; the smallest is the Bolivian feather-wing at 0.3mm which makes you wonder how it was ever spotted! The African Goliath Beetle is bulky but shorter at up to 11cm and the South American elephant beetles can reach up to 14cm in length.

Some beetles are well known for having chemical defences to deter predators but some oil beetles from the Mediterranean and North America are so toxic that, if caught up in hay or silage, can kill any cow that eats it and render the cow's meat unfit for human consumption.

The vast majority of beetles perform a valuable service eating dung, debris and detritus as well as being active predators of garden pests. Only a few, such as the Colorado Beetle, Lily Beetle and various Weevils, are pests.

## **The Devil's Coach Horse**

The number of beetles that can be found in Britain is over four thousand and the devil's coach horse is one of the more unusual. They are not rare, although they are not often seen because they are nocturnal. They are not often abroad in daylight, unless disturbed when hiding

under a log. It is quite harmless to humans (although it can nip) but it can look quite aggressive, if disturbed, by opening its jaws and raising its tail in the manner of a scorpion. It can also squirt an obnoxious fluid from its rear if it feels especially threatened.

It is about 20-32mm long (just under an inch to an inch and a quarter), matt black with only small wing cases. It can fly but rarely does so. It is a fierce nocturnal predator feeding on slugs, worms, spiders, woodlice and other invertebrates. Its larva feed on similar prey and live mainly underground amongst the leaf litter. As with most beetles, it should be thought as a gardener's friend through preying on garden pests and should be encouraged by making space for a pile of old logs or simply a pile of bark chips.

## **Maintenance of the Wood**

The Beast from the East in Spring brought down two trees in the Wood and we are pleased to report that Dan Hinde of Monkey Business dealt with these and some others free of charge. We are extremely grateful to him for his continued support.

We have also received from him the 2018 safety survey and this is being evaluated. The amount of work to be done as a result does not at present seem to be onerous.

The boundary fence (which is our responsibility to keep stockproof) is in need of repair and we are currently looking at what is needed. It may need considerable strengthening and/or replacing.

## **Village Day**

We shall again be having a stall on Village Day which this year is Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> June and also intend to have the usual free quiz to gently test natural history

knowledge, but the prize is a bottle of wine which will go to the person whose ticket is drawn out of those who provided all the correct answers. There will be a similar quiz with a suitable prize for juniors. The stall is a good opportunity to make our presence known and to meet existing Friends of the Wood and also hopefully to recruit some new ones. The fact that the Quiz is free enables us to draw in members of the general public and explain what we are doing.

Help to man the stall for an hour or so would be greatly appreciated; you don't need any expertise in conservation or woodland management, just chat to people and get them to try the Quiz. The first to offer can choose which hour they wish to be on duty.

## **Nest boxes**

Some of the nest boxes which were purchased twelve years ago were getting somewhat worse for wear and ten replacements have been purchased and put up in the Wood to encourage the wildlife.

## **Website**

Our website has been updated and the address is now [HYPERLINK "http://www.sadlerswellswood.org.uk"](http://www.sadlerswellswood.org.uk) [www.sadlerswellswood.org.uk](http://www.sadlerswellswood.org.uk) although you will be able to access it by the old address for some time yet as anyone using the old address will be re-directed for the next couple of years or so.

The main changes are to its structure to enable it to be more easily added to and amended

## **Friends of the Wood**

The annual subscription is still a minimum of £5-00 each and the 2018/19 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.

Please treat this newsletter as the usual request for payment and an early response would be greatly appreciated. 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.

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.

Gift Aid is a valuable source of income and we would appreciate subscriptions being gift aided if you are able to do so and if you 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.

## **Privacy and Data protection**

The only information which we will 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.

The regulations require us to obtain a fresh written consent of all who are on our data base, and we hope that you will continue your support by signing and returning the slip at the end of this Newsletter. This is required even from those who have already paid their subscription for this year (but you are not expected to pay again!). Those

who receive a complimentary copy of this Newsletter should also return the slip duly signed to confirm your willingness to remain on our mailing list – again without payment

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

## **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, Andy Moore, Ron Pulford, Peter Tonge  
and Nicola Badger.

Friends of Sadlers Wells Wood -- Subscription 2018/9

Name(s)

Amount (min. £5 per person)

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

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on your list of Members of Friends of the Wood until further notice.

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