



Witney Woodland Volunteers
Newsletter 2 - May 2024

Hello All,

Welcome to the second WWV Newsletter which will, hopefully, keep you up to date with many of the on-going activities within our group.

WWV Committee Meeting Update (02/05/2024)

- **WWV AGM – Monday 24th June 2024 – Wesley Room, Methodist Church, Witney**
- **Thank you to Finders Keepers of Witney for kind donation towards the First Aid courses**
- **WWV Insurance Renewal from the 22nd May 2024 agreed**
- **End of year finances completed and documentation out for audit**
- **Full tool inventory completed and new tool requirements identified**
- **Work on DPW South information signs and boards on-going**
- **DPW Nature Trail and new seat have been well received**
- **New committee members required**

Deer Park Wood (DPW) Update

At long last DPW is finally starting to dry out after what seems like months of rain. We have been busy continuing to spread further wood chippings along the paths and more recently along the west path and so hopefully, with the weather starting to improve, the paths will be more accessible to all. The central meadow area has been so wet that it has seen little use by walkers over the winter and early spring period, and as such has more or less remained untouched which will, hopefully, be good for the wild flowers that are starting to appear, as can be seen in the below photographs with bluebells, cowslips and wild garlic. A thank you to one of our members who donated and planted the wild garlic a couple of years ago which now seems to be thriving within DPW.



As for the animals and birds, they are all very busy and we continue to have regular visits from muntjacs, rabbits, squirrels, foxes and, of particular interest, the re-appearance of a badger. In previous years we have only ever seen a badger once a year, however, for the first time this year we have seen a badger return several times to DPW. It will be interesting to see whether the badger now becomes a regular visitor. In the photograph, below left, if you look closely, you can see a rabbit, squirrel, magpies and a pheasant, which is also a rather rare visitor to DPW, unlike the magpies, where on one occasion 17 were seen together. The photograph on the right is of our muntjac buck, who has done exceptionally well to survive, bearing in mind that part of his rear lower left leg is missing. The muntjac is now a regular visitor to DPW and has been spotted during daylight hours as well as at night and has been a visitor to the wood since June 2022. Unfortunately our long time resident doe (One eye and no tail) has not been seen now since February.



DPW South Update

We have also been working hard within DPW South and in particular clearing the Colwell Brook of litter and vegetation which was hampering the flow of water. We have continued with the moving of logs from DPW to DPW South in order to demarcate the paths and, as can be seen below, it makes a big difference. The new seat and nature trail seems to be well appreciated from comments received and certainly our members are making full use of it. It was also good to see that Windrush Primary School have also been making the most of the wood and in particular the nature trail.



Other WWV Activity and Information

Mention was made in the previous newsletter about three of our members attending First Aid courses for the benefit of the group. A big thank you goes out to Finders Keepers of Witney who made a donation to WWV in order to help us fund these three courses. Obviously without such help it would be very difficult for voluntary groups such as ourselves to survive, so thank you Finders Keepers, it was very much appreciated.

Keeping on the funding theme, Andrew Coles, as Chair of WODC, has arranged a charity fund raising quiz night for Friday 17th May 2024 (18.30hrs at the Council Offices at Woodgreen in Witney).

Andrew's chosen charities for his time in office are WWV, Witney and West Oxfordshire Foodbank and West Oxfordshire Community Transport, so do please try and support this event (We know of at least two members attending), and a big thank you to Andrew for all the support he has given to WWV over the years.

Staying on the funding front, thank you to all those members who have paid their WWV subscription for 2024 / 2025 and a little reminder to those who haven't that the subscription of £8 is now due.

In the last Newsletter I mentioned the assistance that Rachel Crook, of WODC, has given to WWV in recent times, now one of our long time supporters within WODC, Nick Dolby, is also leaving. Nick has been a huge help to WWV over many years and we will miss his support and guidance, we thank him for all his assistance over the years and wish him well for the future.

Finally, if any members would like to add any information or photographs, relevant to WWV, to the newsletter, then you are most welcome to do so by forwarding the items to Roger.

Wishing you all well
WWV Committee