



Witney Woodland Volunteers
Newsletter 3 - June 2024

Hello All,

Welcome to the third WWV Newsletter which will, hopefully, keep you up to date with all the WWV on-going activity. On Monday 24th June 2024 we held our AGM at the Methodist Church, Witney, which was well attended and the Chair provided an excellent overview of the great work you have all done over the last twelve months. This was followed by a very interesting talk from Neil Clennell of the Wychwood Forest Trust which was well received and we thank him for his input.

WWV Committee Meeting Update – Thursday 27th June 2024

The following roles for the elected committee members at the AGM were agreed:

Chair – Tony Povey

Deputy Chair – Christine Pollard / Communications

Secretary – David Wheeler

Treasurer – Roger Hepworth

Equipment Manager – Simon Stace

Programme Manager – Tony Povey / Simon Stace

Other items of interest at the meeting included:

- **Liaise and meet up with the new Climate Change Officer at WODC**
- **Progress the marking of specimen trees within DPW and DPW South**
- **Additional DPW and DPW South signs required at specific entrances**
- **Warning notices covering 'No Camping', 'No Motor Cycles', 'No Fires' required for the woods after recent incidents**
- **Re-visit and update the WWV leaflet and flyer in light of the addition of DPW South**

Thank You

A big thank you goes out to Andrew Coles who through his work as Chair of WODC has raised three thousand pounds for his three chosen charities during his time in office. That is fantastic news as WWV is one of the three recipients of this fund and will receive £1000 which is a most welcome boost to our finances. So once again thank you Andrew and we can assure you that the money will be put to good use for the benefit of the local Witney community.

DPW and DPW South

In the last WWV Newsletter we mentioned about the appearance of a badger within DPW. The Badger was seen on five occasions but disappeared during May, however, has returned again and so can't be living too far away. The muntjacs, fox, rabbits and mice are still very much in evidence, however, the one thing still missing are the hedgehogs.



The Ermine moth caterpillar has re-appeared and been very busy covering trees and bushes in its web. One tree in particular, at the north end of DPW looks amazing. The many trees cut down by the SSE Contractors have started to recover and there is already a green barrier, between the grass meadow and the road, returning to the east side of the wood. Nature is amazing at how it can recover so quickly. Also growing very well is the willow arch which, as can be seen above, is now a dense tunnel and looks great but, at some point in the near future, will need some attention. WODC have been very busy since our last newsletter and have put down a hard surface all along the bridle path that runs along the edge of DPW South. This now provides good foot and cycle access from the new housing estate right through to Deer Park Road. WODC have also put in place two information boards, one at the entrance to DPW South from Range Road and another from the bridle way, so things have progressed very quickly and all is looking good. During the last few weeks the grass and general vegetation has grown incredibly fast and this has been clearly seen within our woods. The wild flowers are appearing and certainly the rattle sown last year is growing and is helping to control the grass, to some degree, in the areas where we want the wild flowers to bloom. Below you can see foxgloves, rattle and a common spotted orchid.



The grass has grown very tall, however, the orchids are just about managing to push through, although very difficult to count at the moment. Of particular interest is the below right photograph which appears to be a different orchid to the three we normally see (Common Spotted / Pyramid / Bee Orchid). Any suggestions as to what it is?



With the huge growth of vegetation over the last few weeks we as a group have been very busy clearing paths including the cemetery path off Tower Hill, the hospital path, the path from Newland to Cogges as well as the cycle path between the Burford Road and the West Witney Sports field. Once again we have received positive comments from many passing local residents and I'm sure, with the sudden burst of warmer weather, there will be plenty more to do. If you see any paths that do need clearing then let us know.

Wishing you all well

WWV Committee