



Witney Woodland Volunteers
Newsletter 7 - February 2025

Hello All,

Hope you are keeping well and hope that this first newsletter of 2025 will keep you up to date with all the comings and goings of Witney Woodland Volunteers. We held our first committee meeting of 2025 on Thursday 13th February 2025 and below are a few of the issues that were discussed

- Leaflets – New leaflets have now been printed by WODC to include both DPW and DP South
- Fence Posts – New fence post have been delivered and are starting to be put in place in DPW
- Specimen Tree marking – Twenty specimen trees have been identified within the middle of DPW to be tagged for identification purposes
- Notice Board – The notice board at the north end of DPW is rotten and needs replacing
- Tree Thinning – Need to progress the tree thinning / trimming within DPW and DP South

A bit late, but a Happy New Year to you all. The year started with a bitterly cold spell with snow and ice making DPW look lovely, as can be seen below.



The cold weather, however, did not keep our intrepid volunteers away who could be seen, throughout January, clearing away litter that has appeared now that the vegetation has died back. We have been working along the footpath between Range Road and Downs Road, the cycle path between the West Witney Sports Field and the Burford Road, the hedgerow all along the north side of the Burford Road, in the Woodland just off the cycle path that runs between Smiths Estate and Deer Park Road and Loom Lane down and around the old bathing house. It would be fair to say that the amount of rubbish found was considerable and apart from the usual bottles, cans and food rubbish wrappers found there was also a lawn mower, discarded tent, numerous bags of clothes, a double bed head board, furniture, a car tyre and metal posts. All this took a great deal of work to clear, so well done to all involved and we did manage to keep warm (Just).



We received a nice message from 'Parkrun' who very much appreciate all our hard work in clearing the cycle path they use for their Saturday runs and also for all the litter picking we did and asked that their thanks be passed on.

2024 saw a bit of a change on the animal front within DPW. The year started with a visit from our one eyed muntjac, who had been in the wood for almost five years (Since May 2019). She has now gone, not having been last seen since February 2024. She has been replaced by another female who has been seen on and off throughout the year.

As for our three legged male muntjac he is another that we have said goodbye to, having been with us since May 2023, his last sighting was in October 2024. He seems to have been replaced by a healthy looking male who is now seen frequently wandering through the woods.

As for the foxes, we started 2024 with three, however, there is clearly one dominant fox (Called 'Little Socks' – Called so due to his/her leg markings) that we have seen throughout the year. 'Little Socks' is very confident and will happily chase away any other foxes that appear. A second fox (Long Socks) is very timid and usually keeps her/ his distance from the dominant fox.

For the first time we have regularly seen a badger within the woods throughout 2024, little seems to worry him / her and the other animals are somewhat careful when the badger puts in an appearance. Rabbits, mice and squirrels are also frequently seen and it is fascinating to watch the interaction between all the animals during the year.

Don't forget you can view some of the video footage captured of these animals within DPW on the WWV website and / or on the WWV 'Facebook' site.

Below are photographs of some of our current animals who are active:



Badger and Fox (Long Socks)



New male Muntjac



Fox (Little Socks) posing for the camera

A reminder that we keep quite a detailed list of birds, flowers, butterflies, etc that are seen within the woods, on a month by month basis, which can also be viewed within the WWV Website.

Also don't forget to visit DPW at the moment to see the snowdrops as they are starting to look really good (Thank you Juliet and Roger for donating them over the years).

Stay safe and well

The WWV Committee