

Gunton Woodland Community Project

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NEWSLETTER

May/June /July 2008



Springtime in Paris

So much seems to have happened since our trip that memories are fading fast. Here are a few flashbacks. *2nd May, 5 am, there was a buzz of excitement as our coach driver Neil stowed the bags.... after a quick run to Folkestone Neil demonstrated his driving skills as he neatly positioned the coach in the rail car with half an inch to spare into France, brilliant sunshine, a motorway stop for refreshments but what's this? ... shock horror on Rosemary's face as the checkout girl removed the wine from her tray (only allowed if you take a full meal, we discovered)... on to Paris ... the Ring Road has lots of tunnels and Neil's satnav gave up... eventually we found the Holiday Inn Vélizy ... nice rooms, tea/coffee! weird TV programmes, got spruced up.... a drink in the bar, ouch! (lots of Euros), attractive restaurant, excellent dinner, morale high. Next day to Giverny ... Monet's Garden surpassed expectations, no wonder he was inspired to paint those glorious reflections, we explored the house (and the shop!)... unfortunately no time to see the village and nearby Vernon as we had an evening date in Montmartre. A nightmare drive for Neil and horrendous parking (it was Bank Holiday and there were ten million tourists), some of us made it to the Sacré Cœur, others settled for a café. Sunday to Versailles, scorching sunshine ... while Neil took the coach off to get its air system fixed, David and Barry grappled with officialdom to organise entry to the Palace and Gardens ... at last success inside a tide of humanity but the scale and splendour was stunning. Into the gardens which went on for ever ... oh for a seat, a drink and a loo but all were in desperately short supply. Just as the fountain show started, we had to leave back in the coach we laughed as we shared experiences. Early check out Monday (after another fabulous breakfast) enlivened by a nighty / pyjama encounter between Carol and Barry on the 3rd floor, intent on delivering early morning calls....well that's their story anyway! Then the return journey via Santa Flora Castle in Belgium for some last minute shopping before the Chunnel and home. As we approached Lowestoft, David and Rosemary were presented with a replica Monet print as a thankyou for their hard work while Neil received a donation from everyone. All in all, a fun weekend, full of incident (and disasters!), great company, and some marvellous memories.*



Memories of Monet

Can't wait for the next trip!

Wells and Walsingham Thursday 4th September

And this **is** the next trip! The bad news, for those that haven't booked, is that the coach is already full and there is a small waiting list for unavoidable cancellations. Perhaps this one does not have the excitement of foreign parts, but the peace and serenity of Wells-next-the-Sea and Walsingham, with the prospect of a steam hauled train ride in between, is just as inviting. Participants have already submitted their booking forms, with their lunch choices at the Ark Royal pub, and are reminded that the full payment of £25 per person should have been passed to Ray Adcock or Brian Channing by 30th June. Cheques are best, made payable to GWCP please.

Foxburrow Wood

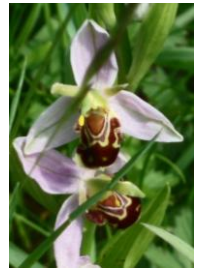
Here's some more good news. Perseverance has paid off and we have now received written approval from both landowners involved, Mr Roy Tubby and Waveney District Council, confirming that GWCP can resume work in Foxburrow Wood as and when circumstances permit. We needed this formal authority to protect our insurance cover. GWCP are not taking Management responsibility and any issues regarding trees overhanging neighbouring properties will continue to be the concern of the relevant landowner. It is hoped to start work in October, probably on Saturday mornings. Which parts of the Suffolk Wildlife Trust Management Plan we are able to tackle will depend on how much support we get. Much can be done to improve this wood.

Gunton Wood



Foxgloves

Sadly, the procession of colourful Spring flowers has now given way to all the various shades of green, but there are a few exceptions. There is a forest of high-rise **foxgloves**, in purple and white, which this year, seem to have escaped the attention of the muntjac. And the **common-spotted orchids** on the wild flower meadow are more widespread, if not as dense, as in previous years. Moreover, if you know where to look, close by there are **bee orchids** and **marsh orchids** and **twayblades** to be seen.



Bee orchid

Gunton Fun Day Saturday 12th July 1.00pm to 4.00pm

The big day is approaching. Please see the future separate flyer for a list of attractions. We need lots of help to make it a success, so call David or Rosemary if you can help behind one of the tables. We urgently need:

- **Wrapped cakes, jams, pickles and chutney.** To Val at 70 GCL in the morning or the day before.
- **Plants, fruits or vegetables.** To 70 GCL or to the School Playing Field in the morning.
- **Nearly new items, books.** To Ray and Molly, 40 Sutherland Drive, 1 week before 12th. Tel 516913.
- **Items for Bottle Draw** (can be wine, or non-alcoholic drinks or tins of anything). To Peter Farrington at 59 Stubbs Wood or David Briggs at 65 Stubbs Wood.

If you can help with rigging up (and down!), we assemble on the Playing Field at 9.30am, please call David first. **This is a joint effort with Gunton Primary School and is the main annual fund raising effort for them and us. Let's make it a day to remember.**

Gunton Nature Reserve, South Side of Leisure Way.

Early in June, many of our work party members met Dorothy Casey and Matt Gooch of Suffolk Wildlife Trust for a tour and briefing on their development ideas for this new reserve. Most of our concerns are being addressed and we are making arrangements to assist SWT in some of the labour intensive tasks that are planned.

Bernard Riddleston

Last February we were saddened to lose our oldest member Bernard Riddleston who died at the age of 101 years. He loved our woods, spent a lot of time there in his later years and we are most grateful to his relatives and friends for their donations in his memory. These were divided between St Elizabeth Hospice, Ipswich and GWCP in accordance with his wishes. He will be greatly missed by all those who knew him.

Elizabeth Canham

Also in February, another of our stalwart members Liz Canham passed away after a brave fight against cancer. Liz was always there when we needed help, she was heavily involved in many community activities and our sympathy goes out to all her family, and especially to her devoted husband, Mel.

Cuttings

- **Sea Front Air Show 24th & 25th July.** 36 members have volunteered to help collect cash donations from the public, a great response. Don't forget the **Training Sessions** on 14th or 18th July, David has the details.
- **Travelodge Hotel.** Work has stopped and heavy equipment moved off site due to the presence of **great crested newts**. In spite of warnings, the Contractor failed to maintain the protective fence and a combination of efforts by Suffolk Wildlife Trust, Aspect Technology (Environmental Consultants) and Natural England led to a "stop order" being served. Another "Newt Mitigation Survey" will be needed before work can restart, this may take some weeks or even months. It's good to know that the regulations **do** work, sometimes.
- **New T- Shirt.** If you want to be a fashion icon this Summer, make sure you order one of our new design **I ♥ Gunton Wood** T- shirts. Order from Rosemary, or buy at the fete, £5.50 adult, £4.50 children.

Nature Notes **Geraniums, Erodiums and an example of Nature, the master scientist at work**

First of all, let's sort out the terminology. Those scarlet-flowered plants called geraniums in garden centres are **not** geraniums. They actually belong to the genus *Pelargonium*. This is quite different from the true *Geranium*, of which there are a dozen or so species that have become established in the wild, where they are also known as **crane's-bills** because of the pointed beaks attached to their fruits. A similar plant group, also with this feature, is the *Erodium* genus, or **stork's bill**. This has a most ingenious method of planting its seed. When the fruit is ripe, the beak splits into 5 strips, each of which forms a corkscrew shape with a sharply pointed seed attached. After falling to the ground, humidity variations cause the corkscrew to twist, so that it buries itself in the soil to exactly the right depth. It even has backward-pointing hairs to prevent the seed from re-emerging. One species, the **musk stork's-bill** *Erodium moschatum*, is officially designated as "Nationally Scarce", but amazingly, some examples have recently been observed on the grass verges of Gunton Church Lane and Gainsborough Drive!!



The long-beaked fruit of the musk stork's-bill