



AGM Notes -2018/19 AGM

25th Sept 2019

Introductions & Apologies

- James Hurrell, Mark Kerry

Minutes of previous meeting

- The meeting minutes from the 2017/18 AGM were briefly discussed and had been previously circulated and were agreed to be an accurate record of the events that had taken place.

Review of 2018/19

Wood allotments 2018/19

- We had 3 new allotment holders and a total of 5 new members, some sharing
- Tree felling training was on 6th and 14th October 2018
- First aid training is now available at Safety Central and monthly courses are generally run
- Andy Cooper continued as our named chain saw operator to help us with the larger trees throughout the year. This has been a great help, thank you Andy

Coppicing & hedge-laying

- We planned 4 coppicing dates in November, January, February and March.
- WT funded a hedge-laying course in February, so we changed one of the planned coppicing dates to the training
- We laid the hedge running down the field to the canal and with a couple of extra sessions managed to complete the section
- Sale and Altrincham Conservation Volunteers came to help twice
 - we spend part of one coppicing session clearing the hedge for the hedge laying date
 - we had a joint coppicing session by kept our timings to those that had been advertised so they came for a full day

Spud Wood Activities

- New trees (2014) ~40 are still standing and are showing above the thistles.
- New trees (2019) – with the help of 20 pupils from Year 5&6 from Oughtrington Primary School we planted 130 new trees in Spud Wood and along the newly laid hedge
- Ecology - Sarah Barber spent time identifying flowering plants in the woodland and the grassland and organised a number of field trips with local schools linked to the national curriculum in science.
 - 2 field trips with Year 4 groups from Ravenbank Primary School to look at classification of trees and construction of keys; to compare flowering plants in woodland and grassland environment and to look at how human activity impacts the environment both positively and negatively.
 - 1 field trip with a Year 10 group from Lymm High School to carry out population size estimates for a flowering plant using sampling with quadrats and population

variation along a transect as light levels vary. Sarah Barber spent time studying the plant life and organised a number of field trips with local schools

- Orienteering – we were awarded a grant by Lymm & District Round Table and with the support of 3rd Lymm Scouts, Bridgewater Canal Company and The Woodland Trust we planned and build a permanent orienteering course of 15 oak posts in Spud Wood. These were used in a family focused orienteering event we ran on 22 June as part of Lymm Festival. Starting from Oughtrington Community Centre heading along the canal we offered 2 routes and prizes for the fastest. We estimated 60 families/groups took part.
- Bridgewater Canal Company – provided a team and equipment to help do some chipping of some of the brash piles
- Volunteer of the Year – Jo Yellen Acorn Award
- New website – www.lowcarbonlymm.org.uk/fosw and email address fosw@lowcarbonlymm.org.uk
- WT organised the following
 - Mended benches/ picnic table that had been burnt
 - New info sign designed by WT in car park
 - Cheshire Wildlife Trust - have been running tots sessions, summer clubs and plan to run Saturday morning sessions once per month

Planned for 2019/20

Wood allotments 2018/19

- In year 2 of our 3 year contract with WT to operate up to 25 Wood Allotments
- Changes in allotments 2 are is now sharing, 1 has left, 3 have returned from resting and 4 have moved to resting
- For 2019/20 we have allocated 24 allotments as have 9 new members on 6 allotments and 3 return from resting - we have 24 allotments.
- Tree felling training will be on 5th and 13th October

Other Spud Wood activities

- New trees. Look to continue to interplant some in the wood allotments area – holly, cherry, hazel etc. WI are going to help with the planting.
- Coppicing & hedgelaying
 - 10am-2pm on Saturday 9th November 2019
 - 10am-2pm on Sunday 5th January 2020
 - 1-4pm on Saturday 22nd February 2020
 - 10am-2pm on Sunday 29th March 2020
- Hedgelaying
 - We plan to continue laying the hedge through the trees and will fell some of the larger trees along its length and in it as part of the WA work, assisted by Andy Cooper
- Nick is looking at setting up a mid-week group – Woodland Wednesdays
- Sarah will be looking to engage with the local schools to do more ecology field work

Treasurer's Report & receive annual accounts

- That the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2019 were received and Nick signed them

Change in Directors

- No changes this year.

AOB, Other initiatives, ideas from the floor

- Nick is going to look to start a dog poo campaign
- There is interest in a "Spud Wood 2" and we'd be happy to assist. Discussions with Lymm Transition Group
- Wayne has been carving walking sticks which we will put on our website and could look to sell at Dickensian
- Wayne will do some carving of the high stumps we have left in the wood allotment
- There is some interest in trying to build the bird hide again