

Winter 2014/2015 NEWSLETTER

AGM

An advance notice of our AGM for 2015. This will be on the 5th March 2015 at 7.00pm at the Harlow Community Centre. Our speaker will be the Walking Englishman (<http://www.walkingenglishman.com>). He is a PCG Member and had linked our site to his and vice versa and is now doing a regular article in the Harrogate Advertiser. We are also hoping to have Paul Casey from HBC along to answer any questions Members may have on the Pinewoods.

Prior to the AGM we will be holding a General Meeting as there are a couple of changes we want to make to the Constitution. Full details of the changes and the meeting will be sent out nearer the time.

Membership

We have had a few new Members join us this year so a big welcome to them as this is probably the first newsletter since joining. On that note – don't forget subscriptions are due in January. Most people pay by standing order so it's nice & easy but for those who don't please forward a cheque/cash to us. If you want it collecting just let me know. If you would like to pay by standing order but don't at the moment, then please just ask for a form.

Pinewoods in Pictures Calendar Competition

Last year we launched an exciting new competition to capture the Pinewoods throughout the seasons. Visitors to the woods and Members were asked to submit pictures of the Pinewoods. The best pictures to be selected for a limited edition 2015 calendar. We did not receive enough entries for this so we decided to leave it for this year and print the calendar for 2016 instead.

For each image used the photographer will receive a free calendar. For the best overall picture the winner will receive a meal for two kindly donated by Harrogate's award winning fine dining restaurant Van Zellers. Photographs will be selected by the Pinewoods committee, Chef Tom van Zeller and professional photographer Helen Lishman. Calendars will be printed ready for sale at the Pinewoods Open Day in September 2015.

Photographs should be of print quality and emailed



to secretary@pinewoodsconservationgroup.org.uk. A selection of photographs received will be displayed for comments via the group's website <http://www.pinewoodsconservationgroup.org.uk/> on Facebook and on Twitter via @PinewoodsHgt.

So please get those cameras busy and get lots of pictures to us. There should be some lovely frosty mornings coming up & probably some snowy ones and those conditions make great pictures – so get out there & get snapping away!

Bat & Bird Boxes

The bat boxes have been cleaned out again recently. The bats were done later than normal but we do have residents. The birds are yet to be cleaned out. We have put up about 20 more bird boxes made for us by Harrogate 20th District Scouts. They are also going to make us some more bat boxes soon so we will be getting those put up before April.

Open Day

We had a very good Open Day again this year. Lots of visitors, decent weather and some of the new stands we had last year we had again, along with more new ones.

We had the HACS digger again which the children love, as they do the tree climbing. The fire brigade brought a fire engine and we had a police car in addition to that and both were popular.

The whole event was sponsored for us by Audi again and they brought a couple of cars along for people to see and provided some raffle prizes. We had the agility dogs that we had last year do some demonstrations for us and were there running their dogs all day.

This year 20th Harrogate Scouts provided the refreshments for us as they did on the Irongate opening. This was really popular and they sold out very quickly and had to go get more supplies. Then when the coffee machine on the coffee van broke down they provided that also.

The usual attractions were there like the bouncy castle, tree climbing, cake stall, wine or water, treasure hunt etc.

Thanks to all Members who came along and helped on the day and those who donated wine, sweets, cakes and tombola prizes. Without our Members helping & donating we could not do the Open Day.

Next year we are hoping to build on the event further and have an exciting new main attraction so watch this space!

Work Days

We have had some balsam bashes again this year done by various Groups, mainly Open Country. Open Country also continued with the clearing of the rhododendrons at the top of the recreation area. In addition we had a contractor in for a couple of days to clear some of the balsam in the woods on the Valley Gardens side of the Pinewoods.

AFC have only done a couple of sessions this year but we have had 2 DofE volunteers in who have done quite a bit of work between them.

Social Media

For those who have not been on our Facebook page or seen our Twitter feed then you must! They are both very popular & well worth following. Our website is kept up to date as well so if you want to know what we are doing then look at any of them!



Calendar 2015

So far for next year we have the following events;

AGM	Thursday 5th March 7pm Harlow Community Centre
Easter Egg Hunt	Saturday 28th March 11am Pinewoods Recreation Area
Valley Gardens 40's Day	Saturday 28th June Valley Gardens
Allotment Show	Sunday 16th August
Open Day	Saturday 12th September 11am Pinewoods Recreation Area
Halloween Trail	October (Date tbc)

Others may be added to this and some of the above may change so please keep an eye out for emails from us to notify you.

Member Offers

Don't forget our special Member only offers as below:

10% off all orders at The Conservation Volunteers

10% off first order at Blue Coat Farm Beef is available from the 20th December 2014 but get your order in as not much left. Lamb will be available before Christmas also. This is really good quality, tasty meat at an excellent price so please get some ordered

Discounted Dog Walking via Muddy Mutts

More details on our web site and watch out for new offers being added.

pinewoodsconservationgroup.org.uk



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