



Winter 2013 NEWSLETTER



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AGM

An advance notice of our AGM for 2014. This will be on the 13th March 2014 at 7.30pm at the Harlow Community Centre. Our speaker will be Doug Simpson from the Red Kite project. We have had him do us a talk before at the start of the Red Kite project and he was very good so it will be interesting to hear from him again with an update of the project.

At this AGM we would very much like to take on some new Committee Members. If anyone would like to join us and they feel they are able to and would like to contribute to the Group then please contact me so a nomination form can be sent to you.

We have recently ordered some pin badges and we will be giving these out free to all existing Members and to new

Members as they join. These will be handed out at the AGM to all who have paid their subs for 2014. 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

We have just launched an exciting new competition to capture the Pinewoods throughout the seasons. Visitors to the woods and Members are being asked to submit pictures over the next few months representing the seasons. The best pictures will be selected for a limited edition 2015 calendar.

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 2014.

Photographs should be of print quality and emailed to secretary@harrogatepinewoodsgroup.org. A selection of photographs received will be displayed for comments via the group's website <http://harrogatepinewoodsgroup.org> 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 and probably some snowy ones and those conditions make great pictures – so get out there & get snapping away!

Irongate Field

HBC has given the green light on our plans to transform Irongate field into a green community space. The field, situated on Harlow Moor Road next to Harrogate Spring Water bottling plant, will see a number of enhancements over the next few months.

The plans will include the installation of a number of picnic tables, the sowing of a wildflower meadow, the creation of a marsh area with moisture loving plants plus the planting of a number of mature trees and whips. The design will take into account accessibility so the site will be available for all members of the community.

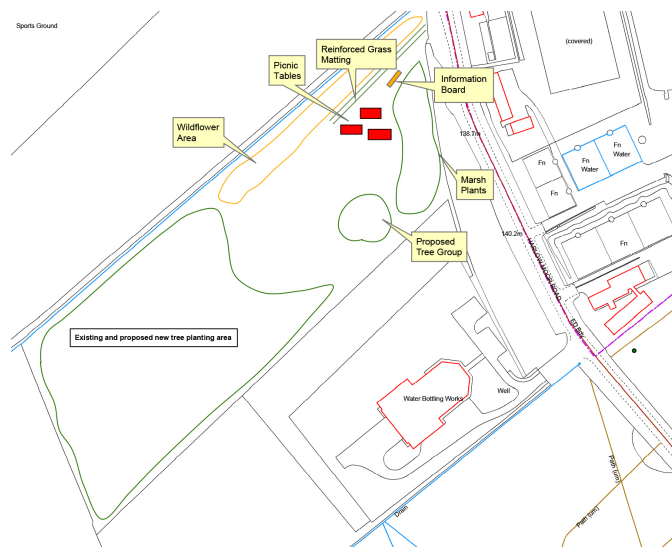
Funding for the project has also been confirmed. Harrogate Council has awarded £3000 via their Community Chest scheme and we have also received a grant from the Big Lottery Fund.

A number of other organisations have already committed to be involved in the project including Horticap, RHS Harlow Carr, Harrogate Bio Diversity Action Group (HDBAG) and Harrogate Spring Water. Local employer Covance has also agreed to

provide a Project Manager for the project. There will also be a number of opportunities for residents and other groups to get involved in aspects of the project.

It is expected that work will begin in the New Year and will take around 6 months to complete with a grand opening being planned for Summer 2014.

For those who have not seen the plans here they are:



Yorkshire Water Agrees to Amend Grass Cutting

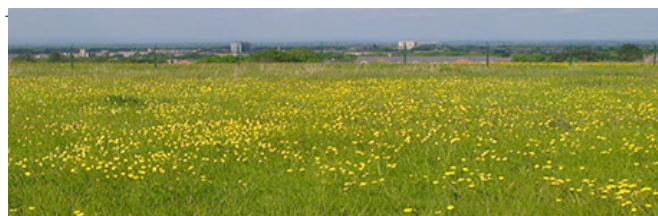
Members of the committee met with Yorkshire Water to discuss grass cutting at Harlow Moor Water Treatment Works. The meeting was also attended by Harrogate District Bio Diversity Action Group (HDBAG) and Rebecca Burnett from the office of Andrew Jones MP after we were approached by local residents about the issue.

The land, adjacent to Nursery Lane off Otley Road, is normally cut 7 times a year and that was destroying an environment for insects and other wildlife. Concern had been raised by several local people about the timing of Yorkshire Water cutting back the long grass in the field – just as the bees and other wildlife were enjoying the clover at the height of the summer.

The meeting discussed the operational access and health & safety issues for the site balancing the importance of grasslands and scrub areas to wildlife. After a site visit it was agreed to run a pilot project in 2014 to only mow the front area of the field where access is needed. A further wide strip will now be left to return to nature resulting in approximately another 2000 square meters of habitat being left to nature.

We have agreed to erect signs on the site to inform passers-by about the project and ask for feedback as the land develops.

Picture: Area when left uncut.



Bat & Bird Boxes

The bat & bird boxes have been cleaned out again recently. The bats were done later than normal but we do have residents. We only had 1 bird box with nothing in it and we had one where when we lifted the lid a blue tit flew out and on further investigation we discovered 7eggs in the box. This has been left as is and we will clean it out later in the year. We still need to get some boxes repaired and others replaced. Harrogate 20th District Scouts have made 20 bird boxes for us as part of their DIY badge. We will be getting those from them very soon and will be putting them up as soon as we can to weather ready for next Spring.

Open Day

We had a very good Open Day this year. Lots & lots of visitors, glorious weather and some new stands which proved to be very successful. HACS very kindly brought a mini-digger along for the children to have a go on and they loved it. The fire brigade brought a fire engine for a brief appearance. The whole event was sponsored for us by Audi and they brought 3 cars along

for people to see and they also provided us with some fabulous raffle prizes. We also had support from the Co-Op, Asda, Harrogate Spring Water, Bettys, Harrogate Brewing and William & Victoria's. The usual attractions were there like face painting, bouncy castle, tree climbing, cake stall, wine or water, treasure hunt etc. For the first time we held a raffle and we also had a tombola. Our main attraction was from a static & flying owl display. They also brought along some snakes & a tarantula and they all proved very popular. 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 look forward to another successful and enjoyable day.



Work Days

We held some balsam bashes again this year and had very good attendance for the first one and not quite so good for the others! Both Open Country & the AFC have done a really good job of clearing it for us along with Ashville College, Beckwithshaw Primary School and Asda. We had some volunteers along as well that came as a result of the publicity you may have seen in the paper published by Terry Knowles on Himalayan Balsam.

Open Country continued with the clearing of the rhododendrons at the top of the recreation area. We are trying to get this area cleared so that it is more open and we can hopefully discourage people from going in there, drinking and leaving lots of litter there and on the recreation area. In an effort to clear the rhododendrons away we had the AFC in to clear it for us. They moved it to the Fire Yard but it was a very hot day and they did not get an awful lot moved but on a second attempt, with the help of a tractor and an excellent

helper from HBC most of it was cleared away.

Open Country have also done some tree planting for us some in the area the rhodo was cleared from and also some in the area at the back of the Fire Yard.

Asda came along and did some litter picking, balsam and shrub pruning for us and then we had a chance at their Community Fund. We managed to receive £50 as a result of entering that.



Leaflet Holders

Many of you will have seen the leaflet holders we have put on the information boards containing our leaflets. We have toyed with the idea of doing this for a little while but not gone ahead due to the worry of them being littered. It was decided to put them up and see how it goes and so far we have not noticed any floating around the woods! This may be different when it gets busy in the Summer but at the moment we have had 3 new Members as a result of them in the short time they have been up so they are proving successful.

Duchy Vixen

For those that are not residents in the Duchy area – they have started to produce a newsletter called the Duchy Vixen which goes out to residents in the area. Local groups such as ours have the opportunity to put an article in which we have done. This is something we will do regularly as it is good publicity for us.

HBC Parks & Open Spaces Community Celebrations

We have received an email from HBC with the plans for the Parks Department's Tour de France celebrations. The following is from that email:

Le Tour de Bunting

Calling all knitters! We are working alongside local groups, organisations and individuals to create colourful knitted bunting which will represent the colour and shape of the rider's shirts and will be used to decorate the district in the build-up, and after the event. Our aim is to produce approximately 3000 + knitted jerseys across the district by 10th March 2014.

The colours of the jerseys are yellow, green, white and white with red dots, each jersey would use approximately 25gms of DK wool and knitted on 4mm needles. The jerseys are simple to knit and are knitted in one piece then folded in half and sewn up the seams. We will provide all willing knitters with a pattern and we have a limited amount of wool available but if you can supply your own wool that would be great.

This project is being launched at the Knitting and Stitching Show at the Harrogate International Centre on 21st-24th November.

If you are a knitter then this may be the project for you to help our district celebrate the biggest cycle race in the world. The knitted creations will be on display from late May to September 2014.

101 Bicyclettes

Do you have any old unwanted bikes cluttering up your shed/garages? Harrogate Borough Council is looking at an opportunity to encourage local groups, volunteers and the general public to become actively involved in a decorated bicycles project within our district boundary. This will be the 101st Tour de France, and therefore the aim is to reflect this milestone by decorating 101 bikes and locating them within suitable locations throughout the district. It is envisaged that these bicycles will help to enhance the visual spectacle and celebration of the event itself.

Locations can include, but are not limited to public open space land, property gardens, building or shop frontages, gate posts or garden walls. In some instances lampposts and highway verges may also be used but that will require prior agreement from the Highway Authority.

The decoration can be anything from painting or decoratively wrapping your bike in coloured paper or lights, spray paint it all one colour, plant it up with seasonal bedding, or something more intricate such as the use of sculpted figurines. The choice is entirely yours.

PCG is going to get involved in the 101 Bicyclettes project by having some decorated bikes along the Memorial Way. We are going to get local schools to decorate them and hold a small competition with some prizes for best decorated etc. This should be a good, fun, way for them to get involved. Covance are donating some prizes and the details are yet to be finalised. It is a long way off yet but we are announcing it now as we need some old bicycles. If anyone has one or will have after Christmas please let us know so we know how many we have. We will shortly be inviting the schools to take part – they may be able to provide them themselves but if we have them then it may encourage them more to take part. If anyone knows of a school that would like to take part please let me know. Bikes are to be decorated in an appropriate woodland/nature theme.

We did not plan to get involved in the bunting project but can if we have enough people wanting to do it then we/they can put them forward.

Social Media

Our website is kept up to date as is our Facebook page which can be used for updates so please 'like' us by going onto it and follow what we are doing on here. Our Twitter account (@Pinewoods Hgt) is very popular and is well worth following. We will very shortly be changing our domain from harrogatepinewoodsgroup.org.uk to **pinewoodsconservationgroup.org.uk**. Once this is in use we will email out to everyone to inform them. The old one will remain in use as well so we do not lose out on any contacts. The main contact email for Members which is currently secretary@harrogatepinewoodsgroup.org.uk will change to **secretary@pinewoodsconservationgroup.org.uk**. Again we will email out to inform of the change which will be shortly.

