



LOCAL NATURE RESERVE

NEWSletter

Issue No 171

November 2018

The end of a warm October...

Sunday 28th October, after a thoroughly wet night, dawned with a hope of sunshine and a little bit of warmth. Seven people accumulated in the Badsell Road car park to continue the coppicing in the reserve, including Wally who we have not seen there for some years, welcome back Wally. The coppicing went well in spite of the chilly North-East wind and weak sun. It rained at break time as if to say we should continue our labours without rest, and many of us did end up quite cold and eager to get back to work, just for the warmth it generated. In fact there were several small squalls of rain as we worked but these were less noticeable under the trees with our backs bent to our tasks. However, the weather put in an extra effort at about 1.30 and Mark and I finally gave up at 2.00. Much has been accomplished so thank you to all those who came.

It is a sad fact that some people have very little consideration for the efforts of others. Sometime around the 15th October vandals destroyed the bench and lifebelt stand at the dipping pond, dumping them in the water. The police have been informed but no action will be taken because there was no CCTV and any forensic evidence will have been ruined by the pond water. The life belt has been retrieved but the rope was cut (burned through) rendering it useless until the rope is replaced. The amount of effort required to carry out the act must have been considerable which makes me wonder 'How many of them were there?' People I have spoken to say this is probably drugs related.



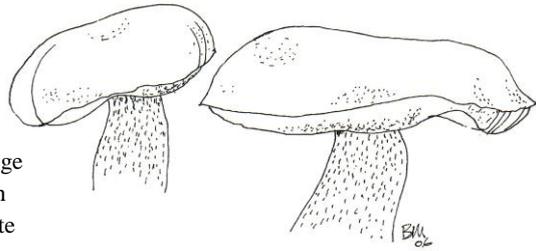
On a happier note, two dormice, one male and one female, were found together in the usual box during the September 19th survey. On October 17th I was able to accompany Steve on the survey and again two dormice were in the usual box. They were alert and quite frisky as we weighed them. The female weighed in at about 30 grams while the male was around 20 grams. This is good from a hibernation point of view as anything over 15 grams is considered adequate for survival

through the winter. October is the last month of the year when an official survey is made as the dormice would normally be in hibernation once November starts. However, it is possible that a November survey may be tried if the weather remains warm enough. It has been a good year for dormice in Foal Hurst this year but not as good as we had hoped. The dormice are definitely in the wood and stay throughout the warm weather.

Sulphur
Tuft



Orange
Birch
Bolete



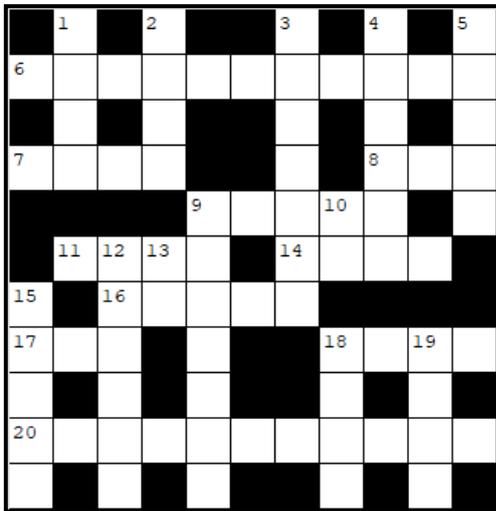
October was a very good month for fungi. The rain on the 14th seems to have stimulated fruiting with Fly Agaric, Sulphur Tuft, Birch Polypore, Green Elfcup, various Boletes, Funnels and Wax caps all being well represented.

There was also some evidence of the deer preparing for the rut. There have been several places where the stags have rubbed against trees to remove the velvet from their antlers. The stags rub so hard it removes the bark from the tree, usually around one to two feet above the ground.

Frogs and toads were still in evidence into the second half of October and many of the small rodents were seen scurrying around while we coppiced on Wednesday the 17th Oct. The next Volunteer's day will be on **Sunday 25th November** when we shall continue coppicing. See you then at **09.30 in the Badsell Road car park**, and pray for better weather.

Peter Prince

FHW Crossword No 138



Clues Across 6. Winter slumber, (11). 7. Abundance, (4). 8. Fruit of Hawthorn, (3). 9. Male Duck, (5). 11. Unlikely Creature for FHW, (4). 14. See 9 down. 16. Ties, (5). 17. Alien visitor, (1.1.1). 18. Breathing space, (4). 20. Species of 15 down, (5,6).

Clues Down 1. Beak, (4). 2. See 18 down. 3. Species of 15 down, (7). 4. Fungus + algae, (6). 5. Is aware, (5). 9 & 14 across. Amphibians habitat, (7,4). 10. Render unconscious, (1.1). 12. Wears away, (6). 13. In the direction of, (2). 15. Mushrooms etc., (5). 18 & 2 down. Thrown in 9/14. (4.4.). 19. Likely perpetrator of previous action. (4).

Solutions to FHW Crossword No137

Across 3. Build. 6. Teise. 7. Africa. 8. Bench. 10. Lot. 11. Ore. 13. Mar. 14. Spoil. 17. Hedges. 18. Trees. 19. Dreys
Down 1. Lesser. 2. Aspic. 3. Baffles. 4. Idiot. 5. Dead. 9. Hornets. 12. Bigger. 13. Midge. 15. Pears. 16. Shed.

Any News?

Items for the next Issue by 3rd December please, to:-
80 Forest Road, Paddock Wood
Kent TN12 6JX
email b.mace452@btinternet.com