



LOCAL NATURE RESERVE

# NEWSletter

Issue No 187

October 2020

## October Half Drowns Volunteers !

With the torrential rain of Saturday night and an early morning shower on Sunday, I almost didn't expect any volunteers to come on 25<sup>th</sup> October; but thirteen brave souls collected, again suitably distanced, in the Foal Hurst Wood car park at nine thirty. Welcome to Moira and Helen who came for the first time and we hope to see you again next time. Two others arrived later to make our total number up to fifteen, a very good count indeed.

After the weather man announced that this last October was the wettest since records began in 1891 it was hardly a surprise to have more rain. However, with more or less the same work parties as last time, we set off in our different groups to the coppice area and to the long hedge. The ground was very slippery at both work locations as a result of the recent rain and quite hazardous as a consequence, but we worked until the usual break time

Ray, Mark, Michael and I had again been in the coppice area once a week since September 27<sup>th</sup> and the estates team had also been to cut some very large poplars for us. As a result there was quite a lot of clearing up to do and by elevenses this was almost all done

On the hedging front, the various people set to work to complete the removing of all the lower limbs of the shrubs in preparation for laying the hedge in December. I thought that most of that work was done when we finished in September but it almost looked as though the hedge had sprouted new growth through October and it seemed to me that we practically had to start again from scratch. Fortunately this was an optical illusion and we are now well on our way to finishing this work

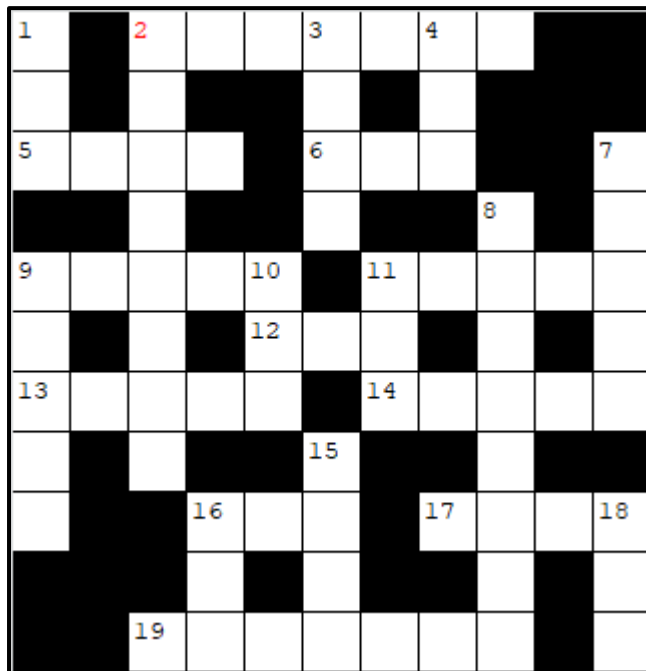
At break time the clouds chose to open up and drench us, so we reluctantly packed up and went our separate ways. Thank you to everyone who braved the weather to come and help in the reserve. Not the best of mornings but much was accomplished, so not a complete washout either. As it turned out the afternoon was dry and sunny for the most part and we could have had a very pleasant session if only we had known and prepared differently. It is all in the luck of the draw.

# FHW NEWSletter

The next work day will be Sunday November 29<sup>th</sup>. We will meet again in the Badsell Road car park at 09.30 and apportion the work according to the numbers. The plan is to continue the same work but there may also be an additional job of clearing brambles and planting a new hedge at the Wetland. Remember to bring your own drink and snacks and wear good strong footwear, and plenty of layers to protect against rain and cold.

I look forward to seeing you all then. *Peter Prince*

## FHW Crossword No 154



### Clues Across

2. 5. One of two working spaces on 25<sup>th</sup>, (7.4)  
6. Number of new Volunteers on 25<sup>th</sup>, (3)  
9. 19. Removed by Estates Team, (5.7).  
11. Mistake, (5). 12. 'Honour', award, (1.1.1).  
13. Strong air currents, (5). 14. See 9 down.  
16. Female sheep, (3). 17. Blackthorn fruit, (4).  
19. See 9.

### Clues Down

1. Meadow, (3). 2. 8. Extra work for Nov 29<sup>th</sup> (8.8).  
3. Footway, (4). 4. Pigeon's call, (3). 7. Feathered Friends, (5). 8. See 2, 9 & 14 across. Removed for hedge laying in December, (5.5). 10. Winged Goddess of the dawn .Greek, (3). 11. Slippery fish, (3) 15. Woodland glade, (4). 16. 'Self', (3).  
18. Tree, (3)

### Solutions to FHW Crossword No 153

**Across** 2. Sparks. 5. Hazel. 8. Owl. 9. Field.  
11. Piles. 13. Log. 15. Birch. 18. Flying

**Down** 1. Ash. 2. Seedlings. 3. So. 4. Old. 6. Aim.  
7. Coppicing. 9. Fox. 10. Yes. 12. Etc. 14. Oak.  
16. Hip. 17. If.

## Any News ?

Items for the next Issue by  
6<sup>th</sup> December please, to:-

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