



LOCAL NATURE RESERVE

NEWSletter

Issue No 195

December 2021

A cold Autumn day...

Through November, Mark and I continued work coppicing and I also planted several oak, sweet chestnut and willow trees in the reserve. On Wednesday 24th November, there were two chainsaws as Steve Songhurst returned and Paul Jenks came over from Surrey to help. This meant there were lots of logs on the ground for the Sunday group on the 28th.

I went round with the leaf blower on the 20th and managed to clear most of the paths. It tells you something about climate change because when I first removed the leaves from the paths back in about 2006 I was starting the work in October and finishing by the first week of November. Now I am starting at the end of November and won't finish until the middle of December some five weeks later than I used to finish. We just don't have the early autumn frost or cold winds that we used to have fifteen years ago.

During my rests on the 20th I heard several woodpeckers tapping. Some of these were the diligent taps required to remove insects from the trees. They are slow and quite calculated as the bird will peck three or four times and then listen before tapping again as it excavates an adequate hole to extract its food. However, I also heard a woodpecker declaring its territory by rapidly tapping six or so times on a tree. For this work they always choose a tree that makes a good resounding note that travels well through the wood so that other birds know to stay away. Normally, this rapid announcement is saved for spring when they are trying to attract a mate and hold onto a nest area. To be hammering in November indicates they are a little confused about the seasons. My garden is also confused. In mid November I had winter jasmine, spring poppies, summer roses and autumn nerine all flowering at the same time! Global warming, climate change or what you will, it is very odd. Sunday the 28th of November dawned cold but bright and the sun remained constant through the day. The previous night's rain, wind and cloud had all disappeared and it was very pleasant working in the reserve. Nine people came and we cleared up the trees felled by Steve and Paul the previous Wednesday. This was mostly finished by eleven. Ray turned up to say hello and you will be pleased to hear that his hand is gradually improving although he will not be able to work again before Christmas.



After the break we set about cutting down more trees, stashing the logs and brush in the usual way. We eventually packed up at 12.30. It was a good day so thank you to everyone who joined in.

FHW NEWS letter

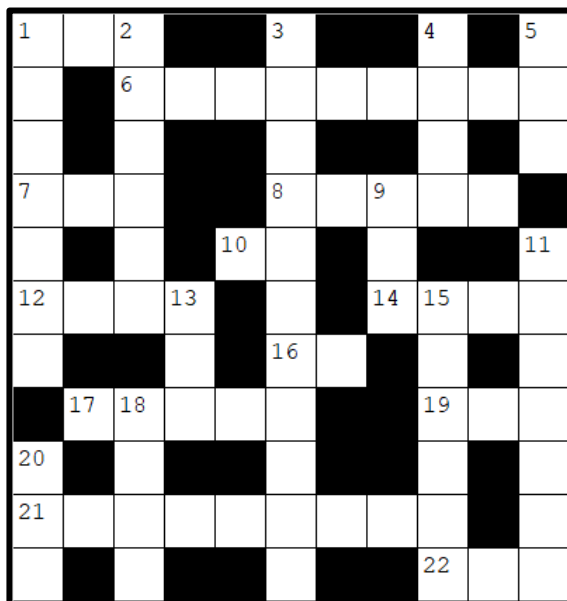
An e-mail was sent out about the next volunteers' day which should be on Boxing Day! The choice of Dec 19th, 26th or Jan 2nd have been offered as work days. Nobody wanted to work on the 26. Some people said the 19th and some said the 2nd so I am setting the work day for both these dates and you can come to whichever you prefer, or both if you wish. The only proviso is, that if you come on the 19th, please bring your own drink and snacks as the tea bag will not be available. Tea and coffee will be provided as usual on the 2nd of Jan.

All I have to say now is,

Have a very **Merry Christmas** and a **Happy New Year.**

Peter Prince.

FHW Crossword No 160



Clues Across

1. Young Fox, (3). 6. Collection of trees, (9).
 7. Drinking vessel, (3). 8. Wild dog, (5). 10. Dr.(1.1.)
 12. Sea bird, (4). 14. Medical imaging, (4).
 16. Career summary, (1.1). 17. Group of birds, (5).
 19. Felling tool, (3). 21. 3 Down activity, (9).
 22. Greek Goddess of the dawn, (3).

Clues Down

- 1 & 15. Seasonal confusion, (7,6). 2. Brock, (5).
 3. Avian excavators, (11). 4. Male deer, (4). 5. Little Devil, (3). 9. Life saver, (1.1.1.). 11. Food for 3 Down, (7). 13. Prefix, New, (3). 15. See 1 Down.
 18. Young sheep, (4). 20. For what reason, (3).

Solutions to FHW Crossword No 159

Across 1. Aching. 4. Neat. 5. Dray. 6. Ash.
 7. I.D. 11. Stash. 13. Rain. 15. Back. 16. North.
 18. Hi. 19. Die. 20. Used. 22. Tidy.
 23. Shower.

Down 1. And. 2. Hoarding. 3. Giant. 4. Noh.
 8. Ducks. 9. Chainsaw. 10. Brush. 14. No.
 17. Trees. 19. Day. 21. DLR.

Any News?

Items for the next Issue by
 6th January please to :-

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