



LOCAL NATURE RESERVE

NEWSletter

Issue No 203

November 2022

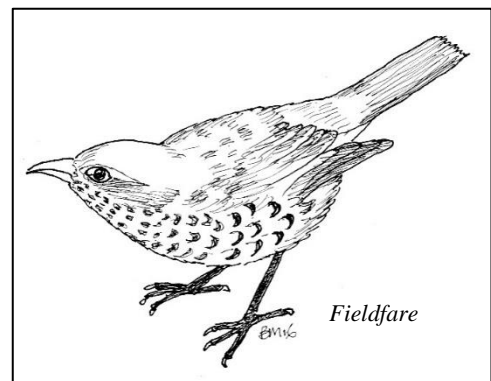
And the rain came down in torrents...

After the wettest November on record, eight people braved the showers on Sunday the 27th. It was muddy and damp but not too cold fortunately. The trees were slippery, the rain was not quite constant - though it made a good effort - and we all got soaked. A good deal of work, logging fallen trees and building of dead hedges and log piles, was accomplished. However, the task is still not complete, but we are getting there. Thank you to everyone who came and I hope that day's weather is the worst it will get. We still have the December work day, **which takes place on the 8th January**, to complete the coppicing.

On Wednesday 2nd November I worked alone in the coppice area and felled all the remaining trees except for a few that were guaranteed to fall across the path. For those I needed help to ensure I didn't drop a tree on some unsuspecting passer by. Well I may have felled the trees but they still needed to be logged and turned into dead hedges etc.

On the 5th I blew all the leaves off the paths throughout the reserve. It was an easy two hours work but I was amazed at the bumper crop of acorns and the large percentage that were sprouting. It seemed that probably 80% had shot and some had roots four inches long already.

The 8th of November was very wet and stormy and as a result the ditch along the east side of the wood and the allotments was brimming full of fast flowing water. Steve, Simone and I continued coppicing and I managed to finish felling the smaller trees leaving about a dozen large trees that require a chainsaw. There were a number of robins and tits flitting around the hazels looking at what we were doing. Although the area we are coppicing is now totally bare, the birds will still be able to overwinter to the south of the wood, where we coppiced a few years ago. November 16th was wet and I cancelled the work but on the 23rd Ray and I went in after it had finished raining and continued cutting up the felled trees left over from the 8th. The ditch was still flowing strongly but the Wetland had a depth of perhaps six inches of water which for the amount of rain seen during November was not very much. I can only assume the water table is still quite low and that the trees have been slaking their thirst. I heard a small flock of fieldfares fly over and the great spotted woodpecker kept us company much of the time, in spite of the chainsaw.



FHW NEWS *letter*

I returned on the 25th and continued work but mostly on the other side of the path. There were two police cars and about six officers in the car park and it was obvious that there was a drone piloting lesson taking place. I worked in the wood for about two hours and in that time the drone flew over the wood several times and hovered over me above the tree tops. I can only assume they were using the infrared camera to catch my heat signature, demonstrating how there is no hiding place for criminals. My case comes up in three weeks!!! – I did notice that all the birds fell silent each time the drone approached. Maybe they were also feeling guilty.

As stated above, the next workday is on the 8th January 2023 when we will finish the coppicing. Anything that is still to be done after that will be left as we will be finishing the hedge laying from the following week until the end of March.

Peter Prince

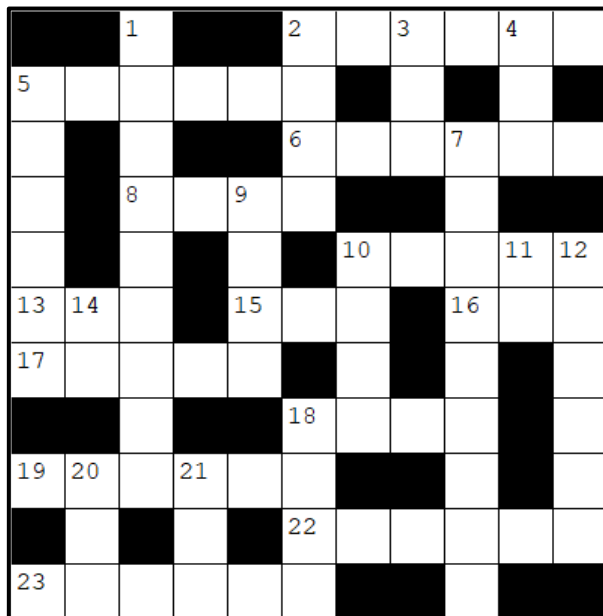
So until we meet again, I wish you a

Very Merry Christmas

And

Happy New Year

FHW Crossword No 168



Clues Across

2. Prickly Pear, (6). 5 & 2 Down. Masses of acorns, (6,4). 6. Defeat by guile, (6). 8. Pile, (4). 10. Watchful, (5). 13. Wane, (3). 15. Not well, (3). 16. Romanian currency, (3). 17. Rule, (5). 18. *Canis lupus*, (4). 19. Of the genus *Musa*, (6). 22. Very wet and windy, (6). 23. *Coprinopsis atramentaria*, (3,3).

Clues Down

1. Frog or toad, (9). 2. See 5 Across, (3). 3. Slice, slash, (3). 4. Alien sighting, (1.1.1). 5. *Meles meles*, (6). 7. *Turdus pilaus*, (9). 9. Similar, (4). 10. Singing voice, (4). 11. With regard to, (2). 12. Christmas bird, (6). 14. Exist, (2). 18. *Vespula Vulgaris*, (4). 20. 'Beard' on wheat or barley, (3.). 21. Curve, (3).

Solutions to FHW Crossword No 167

- Across** 2. Birch. 5. Cob. 7. Penny. 8. HEA. 11. Lea. 12. Brill. 13. Outre.. 14. ICC. 17. AH. 18. Roe. 20. Maple. 21. Eft. 22. Acom.
Down 1. Grebe. 2. Buns. 3. Coppice. 4. Doe. 5. Chilli. 6. Backache 7. Polypore. 11. Avocet. 12. Botanic. 15. Calyx. 15. Barn. 19. Oft..

Any News?

Items for the next Issue by 16 January please, to:
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