

FRIENDS OF PARKLANDS WOOD, REPORT FOR THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 1st JUNE 2021

It is 10 years since the Parish Council started negotiations to purchase Parklands Wood from the local District Council to create a Community Wood. During this last year, many people have expressed their pleasure at being able to access and enjoy our Community Wood. To see the trees during the seasons, see the ferns, bluebells, snowdrops, ragged robin, hear the various bird songs, see muntjac deer, squirrels, insects, occasional toads, fungi etc etc. It's now well recognised how important it is for our general health to be able to enjoy being in the countryside and in woodland.

Last year the PC was awarded a **Community Lottery Grant**. The FPW committee have been involved in the following: **Development of the Information Board**, concerning what happened in the wood during WWII, thank you to all those who contributed and supported, to name a few Barry, David, Peter, Andy and not least to Anne, the artist who produced the final Board. **Redwood Carving**, recently brilliantly carved by Arrnie Barton, he has been able show due appreciation of the magnificent tree that needed to be felled for safety reasons.

Tree Survey was also funded and carried out, it has been helpful to determine the trees that require work. The **Bat Survey** is fascinating showing, we may have several Bat nurseries and some fairly rare species, we plan to put up additional Bat boxes.

Tree maintenance has been carried out by a local Tree Surgeon, particularly an over hanging dying Ash Tree on the Ave and felling some of the Elm trees from around the remaining Redwood and Oaks close to Redwood Terrace.

Christmas Lights in the Woods, an impromptu group got together to create an amazing evening in the woods, thank you to all who contributed their time, energy, decorations, lights etc and to the Parish Council, who made a grant to purchase lights. So many adults/families and children enjoyed the experience and many hope it will become an annual village event.

The **Working Groups** have continued; when possible; to plant another 100 saplings supplied by the Woodland Trust and additional donated Oaks. We have worked with the Tree Surgeon to clear the brash and have recently made a new access path to the Redwood carving.

At our AGM on 10th July we have asked our local District Coucillor, Carol Poulter to "unveil" the Information Board and the Redwood Carving. Kevin Rogers will lead the walk and there will be story telling from the Redwood Carving for the children.

In the future the Committee, with the support of members of the FPW, plan further educational social activities in the woods. Walks, Dawn Chorus walks, Christmas Lights, possibly picnics.

Without the commitment of the committee, the working group and all the friends, together with the financial support of the Parish Council, it would not be possible to maintain the wood for the community to enjoy, in such a cost efficient way.