



Hello Volunteers

Well here it is at last the LATE late spring edition of our newsletter which carries little in the way of news but more a pictorial record of our dedicated Western volunteers' activities. You may recognise the Rhododendron from those along the main drive towards the BIG chair amongst the many that are now in full bloom. When I took the photograph, I believed it was one of the first to be displayed, but it was quickly pointed out to me by another volunteer, wise in his number of years, that the bush/tree behind was the first to bloom.

I must also make a public apology for the advancement in years of a volunteer in my last edition – referring to an age yet not obtained but soon to be achieved. But what does it matter when a subject of 'humorous' conversation amongst Tuesday volunteers often features the idea that anyone over 70 should be euthanised!

In this issue: Yard Tidy; River dance; King's Wood Ride Cutback; Oak Wood Display Board; Snow Weeding; Heron's Hatch Power Line; Rustic Fence Replacement; Stockgrove Drainage; Large Birch Removal; Gary Gates; Weeding Oak Wood and Swanlake.

Yard Tidy

Early in the year on 8th January, the Tuesday volunteers were tasked with a tidy up of the yard at Stockgrove in preparation for the moving of the pink lock-up. Some might have said it needed it anyway as so much junk gets dumped there – it's difficult to understand when there is a skip located so near. It's that old adage that we will keep it anyway as it might be useful one day!



The centre photograph shows the land cleared and marked ready for the Pink Tank!



**Gary shows Allan how he does the RiverDance
(Avery's 22nd January)**

King's Wood Ride Cutback

Wednesday 9th January had the Wednesday Volunteers taking the long walk into the depths of King's Wood for one of the annual ride cutbacks. The task was to clear back the regrowth and clear/fell some trees along the ride edges to open up the ride and allow wild flower growth and in places clear the drainage channels. This year it wasn't as wet as it has been in previous years.



**Now children, what can we see through the rectangle window?
(New Display Board in Oak Wood)**

Snow Weeding

Wednesday 23rd January saw the volunteers really doing something stupid – weeding in the snow – I mean is that not daft or what? Not only could we not see the 3 B's, but the ground was solid. Surely, we could have been doing something much more worthwhile.



Your Mission, should you choose to accept it, is to lay a power line to Heron's Hatch



Decision making (a lengthy process); the trench; the root of the problem!

Rustic Fence Replacement

On 29th January the Tuesday gang replaced and repaired the rustic fencing around the slide area and along the main drive and the parallel horse ride.



Stockgrove Drainage - Tuesday 26th March



What can I get the Tuesday volunteers to do and keep them busy – I know, get them to dig a drainage ditch; there was one there once but now it's overgrown and has large chunks of some tree in the way – that should keep them occupied while I go and have a cup of coffee and check my emails.....

And another thing – the rustic fence along side the toilet block needs refurbishing.....



Large Birch Removal on Rammamere – 27th March 2019



You would have thought that by now we would have cleared all the large birch from Rammamere (regrowth after it was clear felled some years ago) – but here we were again cutting even more birch. Still it keeps the rangers busy because only they are allowed to paint the stumps with round-up! Lucky for Bob that he manages to cajole some other rangers to do some painting while he puts his feet up - no sorry - do some twitching!

And believe or not, we were back on the heath again, clearing cleared areas on 3rd March!

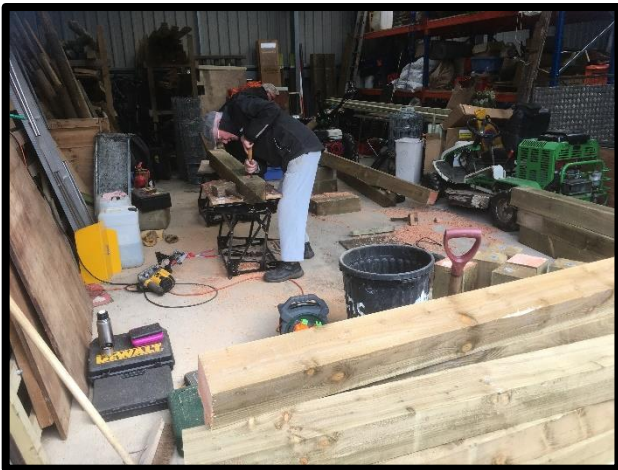
A Gary Gate – a carefully designed piece of engineering, fag packet notwithstanding. The first is installed at the lower entrance to the meadow near the new shed on 2nd April. This long awaited, lockable barrier is to stop those lazy dog-walkers from parking where they should not!



I'm telling you it's b***** level



Look from here and you'll see what I mean



If I where a Carpenter



You push and I'll pull

The following week, 9th April, 3 more Gary Gates were installed – here are two of them!



Entrance to the horse field from the main car park and by the big jumps in the mountain bike area (Wrong! – it's been removed, Slap wrist Gary!).



Yes – that is what you think it is (but, its content is just normal semi-skinned)

Explanation (if you believe it or not)

“That’s the only container I could find to use at short notice”

Well that’s what he told us! One asks - what is poor little Edward Peach Pip using?

Weeding the Forest in Oak Wood again – Wednesday 10th April 2019



If you didn't know better, you could imagine these old dears are on their allotment passing the time of day!

End Piece

Stockgrove Lake Swan with Nine Cygnets

