

Report on Cock Robin Wood February 2020

Grateful thanks to all the volunteers who attend Monday by Monday. Without their help nothing would be done.

Between us we have clocked up 952 hours (including tool maintenance and admin) and 406 attendances.

Main Activities

The final bit of hedging is underway and is quite challenging.. As reported last year the quality of the hedge material is very poor due to enclosed nature of the hedge, and also a lot of mature regrowth has had to be removed.

The wet winter has kept the ponds topped up and seasonal pond has grown to fill the available hollow.

Bird boxes were checked and cleaned ready for this season – repairs completed as necessary.

Car Park: The council cleared back the car park and removed a lot of trees after we had cut back all the scrub for them. The resulting wood was chipped and left on a huge pile for us. I suspect there was more than there should have been especially as it had developed a lot of heat and some of it was compost!

We have started to lay this on the existing pathways. We have also had to restrict access to some of the grassy areas which were being worn out as folk diverted to avoid the muddy paths. (Note: Most of the grass in the wood has been worn out over the last two seasons. The Trust have supplied a small quantity of seed and hopefully this will bolster the remaining areas. The rides will need a more substantial effort including path definition and dead hedging to keep the reseeded areas clear of foot-fall)

Thinning: The work continues in compartment A. As with the previous thinning the brash is being converted into dead hedging as and when possible..

Two visits from Nature Force have been a mixed blessing. The first group cut down a lot of hazel and willow but just left it in a huge pile. The second group who volunteered to come after the Nature Force day was cancelled for staff training, made an excellent contribution and cleared a whole section of brash creating a classic dead hedge.

Two of our volunteers completed their first aid training this year which keeps our quota up.

Derek Lill

Voluntary Work Party Leader

Cock Robin Wood

