

# Gifford Community Woodland

## AGM Monday 30<sup>th</sup> August 2021 at 7pm

Protecting Speedy & Fawn Woods for the benefit of the local community

## Chairs Report

### This years key achievements

- 18 volunteer days
- Over 400 new trees planted
- Safety work continues
- Improved drainage to accessible paths
- Many individual volunteer efforts
- Outdoor learning for the school, guides and cubs
- 144 community members engaged in woods activities (ages 4-80)



And whilst all this great work was happening within the woods, behind the scenes further community volunteers secured funding to support the sustainability of our woodland, including a £75,000 award from the Heritage Lottery.



### What's next

We now have the resources available to help us support a range of woodland maintenance and community engagement activities, including two core staff.



Nev - Managing the woods and leading volunteer activities  
Onie - Supporting community engagement/admin



They will be working with community volunteers to:

- ✦ Manage the woodland to make the forest more resilient, including wildlife surveys and pond creation
- ✦ Run volunteer days for skills development and social opportunities
- ✦ Provide events for local community groups to benefit from the woodland, increase wellbeing and enjoyment
- ✦ Develop youth group events shaped by young people for skills learning supported by training providers
- ✦ Offer school and nursery trips to enable children to learn about natural heritage and how to care for it
- ✦ Develop adult learning events to increase skills and knowledge that will help us care for our woods
- ✦ Eradicate rhododendrons from the woods

### Long term vision

A restored native woodland supporting broad biodiversity which is an asset to the local community for leisure, health and learning.

# It's your woodland! So we need you involved...

## Ways to get involved:

- ✂ Get in touch (email or social media)
- ✂ Come to an Open Woodland Meeting
- ✂ Join a volunteer day
- ✂ Sign up to our e-newsletter
- ✂ Apply to be a Trustee



## Open Woodland Meetings 2021-22

Friendly, relaxed, welcome to all  
Quarterly on Mondays at 7.30pm

November 29<sup>th</sup> On Zoom

February 28<sup>th</sup> In the village hall

May 30<sup>th</sup> On Zoom

August 29<sup>th</sup> AGM

## Community Led Initiatives – a fair and transparent process

Whilst the trustees carry the responsibility of managing this community asset we must be driven by what the community need and want from the woods. Equally, the community shares the responsibility to deliver what they want. This year, we've been working on a way for people within the community with ideas for the woods to take them forward. The start point is a simple form and conversation with volunteers already involved in looking after the woodland.

We need to know that ideas:

- ✂ Fit with the aims of our woods
- ✂ Will benefit our community
- ✂ Has support from the community

We then need to consider:

- ✂ Potential risks to the woods or us as an charity
- ✂ Resources required (like people or funds)
- ✂ Implications for long term sustainability

Trustees then consider whether the idea is something to pursue and how volunteers already experienced in managing the woods, alongside Nev and Onie, can support you to deliver your idea. So if you have an idea, please get in touch.



## Trustees of the woodland this year

Roo Hardy (Chair),

Kevin Hague (Treasurer)

Roger Wilson, Rosemary Everett,

Vi Monelle, John Wrinn



[giffordcommunitywoods.blogspot.com](http://giffordcommunitywoods.blogspot.com)

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Facebook: [/GiffordCommunityWoodland](https://www.facebook.com/GiffordCommunityWoodland)

Twitter: [@Gifford\\_Woods](https://twitter.com/Gifford_Woods)

Sign up to our e-newsletter at:  
<http://bit.ly/GWoodsMail>



**Huge thanks to the many volunteers working both in the woods and behind the scenes to support our woodland.**

**Special thanks to Dorothy Lyle for providing the amazing images of insects photographed in our woods.**