



BARWOODS

Botesdale and Rickinghall Community Woodlands Project

Report for Rickinghall Parish Council Annual Meeting, 2023-24

Members of the Steering Group of Barwoods are pleased to report continuing progress on the two sites that we manage on behalf of Rickinghall Parish Council.

We have had another mild, wet winter and now the buds are bursting in Northfield Wood where woodland flowers like snowdrops, aconites and primroses are showing. Anita continues to bring small clumps of flowers that she splits and plants about the wood. Patrick has done marvellous strimming work and cleared grass, nettles and brambles from under the threes. We notice that the paths are kept open by use and last autumn some people were encouraged to pick the fruit. It is good to have the benches and people can sit and enjoy the wildlife. The wood itself is looking reasonably mature at the top end near Mill Lane. The lower end is being filled with young trees but will catch up eventually.

In Low Meadow the shrubs that we planted in groups of three are now forming larger clumps and filling in spaces. The new hedge on the east side is doing surprisingly well and the Water Board came and repaired a leaking pipe that was making the entrance muddy. The Tree Warden for Wortham has been growing trees from seed and he gave us two Black poplars, which he came and planted for us! They are a rare form of native poplar and we already had one, so it will be interesting to see if they generate new trees.

We did not get any pollarding done this winter so it will have to wait.

We had an annual meeting in September and were pleased to welcome Ann Topham, who has been setting a great example planting trees in Redgrave Park.

There is a leaflet about Barwoods that is for inclusion in the Welcome Packs for new residents and a short article goes into each village magazine issue; our work parties are on the first Sunday of the month on one of our three sites

It is an interesting fact that people are more willing to help plant trees than maintain them and so the work falls on fewer people now. Those who do this work have been doing it for a number of years; if anyone would like to join us and feel part of its creation, they would be welcome. We planted wood for the village and we also care for the other two sites; we hope they will continue to offer quiet spaces for the enjoyment of residents. Please contact Di Maywhort on 01379 898785

Rosemary Jones, Chairman, 4th March 2024
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