



BLANDFORD ENVIRONMENTAL TRUST (BET) March 2021 Newsletter

Dear BET Members and Friends of Angus Wood,

It is only 6 months since I wrote to you but we have some information we want to share with you and it seemed best to write a brief update now. As I wrote last September, we hope that you have found consolation in these difficult times in the natural world.

Angus Wood. Our half hectare piece of woodland is always open and is used every day by walkers who enjoy the trees and wildlife. In non-pandemic times we hold monthly work mornings when we clear the paths, tidy fallen branches, trim some unwanted undergrowth, remove litter, trim the grassy patch, and plant new trees. However while social distancing is necessary, we are keeping the monthly work group small with only 5 or 6 'regulars' working. Once closer contact is safe we will invite more of you to join us - some have already volunteered, which is excellent. The sessions are from 10 - 12 on the last Saturday morning of the month. Unfortunately there are some visitors to the wood who still leave litter, so we want to thank those who help us to keep the wood tidy by picking up litter as they walk.

Angus Wood Events. Public events in the wood were cancelled last year due to the pandemic. We hope that we will be able to hold the Hallowe'en event this year. Future events will be advertised on our noticeboard, on BET Facebook page, by e-mail to members, posters & flyers, and on the Town Team website <https://www.blandfordtown.co.uk/listing/angus-wood/>

Disability and Dementia care. To raise awareness of the benefits of woodland for everyone, BET are proposing to hold two sessions in the summer for those living with disability and their carers. Tours of Angus Wood and a short talk will be given under a marquee. The all-weather path is safe for use by mobility vehicles and wheelchairs.

Hidden Gardens Day. BET took over the organization of this popular annual event last year but it was cancelled because of the pandemic. Due to uncertainty about Covid in the months ahead, this year's Hidden Gardens Day has been postponed to **Sunday September 5th** after consulting participants. Tickets at **£5 each** will be on sale from the Tourist Information Centre in August. If you love gardens, do join in and if you would like to open your garden, please let us know as soon as possible. Remember that open gardens do not need to be perfect! You will help various charities by buying a ticket and inviting your friends and family to do the same. Let us hope for a sunny day and some beautiful early Autumn gardens!

The Climate Change Challenge Conference. This important conference was postponed until May 2021 but due to the risk of another increase in Covid, we have had to cancel again. We very much hope that it will be possible to have the conference in 2022 as restrictions on large gatherings allow. Climate breakdown continues and will become ever more urgent over the next few years. We had some excellent speakers & displays lined up for the conference so we hope you will come to join in.

Hedgehogs & Bats. Some local hedgehogs find shelter in Angus Wood and their situation will be improved when the local Dorset Mammal Group present us with two hedgehog houses in April. Our bat boxes near the path at the far end of the wood appear to be in use. A short video can be seen on the BET Facebook page showing bats flying at the southwest end of the wood.

Join the BET Committee. We would like to invite any member of BET with an active interest in woodland management to contact us to discuss what is involved in being on the committee,

Encourage Membership. We need more BET members so please ask friends and acquaintances to join if they use the wood and wish to see it maintained or have an interest in environmental projects like this. The £10 pa membership fee goes towards the cost of public liability insurance, tools and maintenance, tree work & new trees as well as helping to put on community events & raise awareness of environmental issues. Contact details are at the bottom of this page.



Jenny Thompson
Chairman, BET

Blandford Environmental Trust: blandfordenvironmentaltrust@gmail.com
<https://www.facebook.com/Blandford-Environmental-Trust-112413653806750/>
01258 458911 (Blandford Museum number for messages)

Data Protection Information.

Since the end of the Brexit transition period the provisions of the EU GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation) act have now been incorporated into UK Law. As you are a member of BET, we hold information on you, e.g., name, email address, phone number and subscription status.

BET's GDPR policy and Privacy Statement may be inspected on the Blandford TownTeam website:

<https://www.blandfordtown.co.uk/theme-content/uploads/2021/03/20210320-BET-GDPR-Privacy-Statement.pdf>