

REPORT H

Millennium Wood Report: PC AGM '25 - Amanda Chuter

Millennium Wood, owned and Managed by the Parish Council on behalf of the residents of our parish, continues to thrive, despite the efforts of ash-dieback, squirrels, invasive Parrott Weed, and bramble determined to conquer the woodland.

This year the Lengthsman Team, Craig and Rachael Howe, have continued the work of changing the woodland from a plantation to a more natural woodland, by thinning, coppicing, and raising crowns. While most of the brash is left to create wildlife habitat, some branches are saved for the ever-developing Den Building Area.

Rachael has made a new set of Lost Words plaques; the stepping logs have been repaired, and notices are now on the 3 pedestrian gates stating dogs are to be kept on leads... for the sake of the wildlife, and enable owners to collect and remove dog poo. Native Bluebells and Wild Garlic have continued to spread stealthily since the bulbs were planted some 6 years ago.

Earlier this year, a local husband/wife company, Atheris Ecology, approached the PC to ask if they could use MW to practice conducting dormouse and newt surveys. When completed, they will let the PC know what they discover. Dave and I met Dan and Caroline on site, and later they met with Craig and Rachael - to explain how they will conduct the surveys.

Dan and Caroline revealed they are, with their young daughter, frequent visitors to MW - they are not alone, MW attracts visitors from near and far.

Thank you to all who happily turn out to help with tasks when extra hands are needed. Millennium Wood is an asset to our parish and it was a good day when the Parish Council grasped the opportunity to purchase the woodland in 2015.