

Riders Wood



Pauline Moore, on a sketch she drew in 2005 (when she promised her land to BWT) marked “tree plantation” on the area which we planted eight years later in December 2013. More than 80 families helped us plant about 500 whips and small trees, and now, four years later, they are growing very well. BWT call it Riders Wood, and Steve Andrews, who carved our owls and Green Man, returned last Winter to transform the stump of an old ash.



Above the name-plate he has achieved a splendid prancing horse! Steve has carved dragons, giraffes and many other wild things, but ours was his first horse, and it was fascinating watching him at work.

Moore Meadow is a popular destination for healthy medium-length walks. Here, six members of the Friday health walk group, who start from Bearsted Surgery at 11 am, enjoy a sunny morning.



The health walk scheme is run by the Patient Participation Group attached to the Bearsted Medical Practice. It provides volunteer walk leaders trained by the Community Health NHS Trust, who risk-assess local walks and are covered by insurance. Tuesday health walks start from Holy Cross Church at 10:30 am. You can choose to take a 30 minute walk or a longer one of 60 minutes. The aim is to get people of all ages and fitness levels out walking locally; it's a sociable and healthy sort of exercise... absolutely free! Ring Jeanette Ward (walk leader) on 07941 906553.

Thank you to Bearsted Active Retirement Association!

When Peter and Marie-Lyse Martin took over the second-hand bookstall at BEARA meetings, they decided to give the proceeds to BWT. Their efficient system involves collecting paperbacks from members who have read them, taking them home, sorting them, and packing them into boxes in alphabetical order. Then they take about 50 to 70 books to the meeting... and arrange them temptingly on a large table - priced at £1. The stall has been so popular that already they have given BWT several hundred pounds, which is being spent on essential materials for fence, path and gate repairs.

Hedge Cutting

Our hedges are now so well established that our own maintenance team would need hand loppers and a chainsaw to cut through the thickest branches. The whole job used to take them about three weeks - working three days a week!



For the second year running, BWT have employed Ray Butler from Chart Sutton with his powerful machine cutter. He can do all the hedges in just one day, and the result, as you can see from the photograph, is very neat.



Fungi: An important part of the ecosystem

Fungi, lichens and mosses are three categories of living things that may sometimes have relationships with each other. We have some striking varieties of fungi on the fallen oak in Moore Meadow, good for photographs, but of course NOT to be eaten.



Fungi are a very ancient type of vegetable which have been around so long that they have adapted to grow almost anywhere. They are not plants, because they cannot make their own food with chlorophyll from the light of the sun. They have to be parasites, getting their nutrients from a wide variety of different hosts, anywhere that is warm and damp. And they spread with tiny spores which fly away on the breeze or in water, or get carried on animals or clothing.



Fungi, like bacteria, are responsible for most of the recycling which returns dead material to the soil in a form in which it can be reused. Without them, dead plants and animals would just hang around, and the nutrients from the dead material would not return to the ground. Other plants, animals and micro-organisms that rely on that food would also die and the delicate balance of the ecosystem would be lost.

The types of fungus growing on fallen tree branches may help you know how long the tree has been dead, but they don't tell you where North is. In *The Woodlander 34* we'll write about lichens, which can help you find your way!

Beavers, Cubs and Scouts

During the weekend of 5th - 7th May 2018, Bearsted Scout Group held an all-sections Scout Camp at their premises in Church Landway. Over 60 young people slept under canvas and enjoyed some fresh air.



The leaders were hugely assisted during the weekend by the use of the Trust land for activities. This included a treasure hunt, some games, a night hike and learning to read maps and use co-ordinates – all in the fantastic weather.



We hope that Pauline Moore, who taught so many children to ride, and particularly wanted children to enjoy her fields, would approve!

BWT & Tudor Park Hotel: A happy collaboration



BWT are grateful to Tudor Park Hotel staff who have been helping us with projects every year now for over five years. In May, a team from several departments (Executive Office, Zest Bar, HR, Cast Iron Restaurant, Sales and Golf) improved the woodland paths near the maze. Karen Martin who arranges the days for the hotel's Associate Relations Committee, says that staff enjoy the team building exercises, and also that in Summer some of them spend their lunch break in Moore Meadow, and bring their families for walks at weekends.



Manager Nick Hawkes has also been known (on a fine morning) to hold his daily 15-minute staff briefing in the open air near the sand school. Concierge Roy Loveland, true to his surname, recommends the Woodland Trust to hotel guests, especially to coach parties who want to stretch their legs for a few hours, and to families for the play park. They always come back and tell him how lovely it is.

Walter Fremlin of Milgate Park loved pine trees



The Scots pine is the only truly native pine in the UK, found in abundance in the Scottish Highlands. Mature trees grow to 35 metres and can live for up to 700 years. Bearsted pines, now over 100 years old, can be seen dotted along the Ashford Road, up Yeoman Lane (where they clog the road drains with millions of needles) in Manor Rise, by Majors Lake and in Moore Meadow. Counting them is an impossible task, but they were probably all planted by Walter Fremlin.

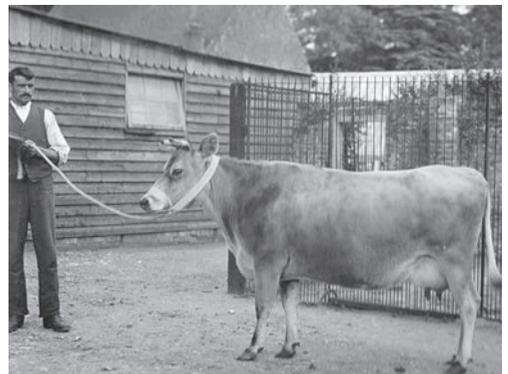


Walter was regularly observed driving around in his carriage (with immaculate black horses) laden with small hessian sacks containing sapling trees and a spade with which to plant them. He liked to plant in clusters, three, five, and sometimes seven saplings grouped together. Evidently, he didn't have to worry about obtaining any sort of permission

Walter was a member of the famous brewing family that used an elephant for their logo. He bought Church Farm in 1892 and Milgate house and estate in 1902. In 1911, aged 66, he completed his census return to show himself and his wife Lilian (42) living

grandly at Milgate, supported by a secretary, a cook, SEVEN maids and a footman!

Walter was fond of shooting, and had his own cricket team which played regular matches on the Milgate estate. He also bought a herd of Sussex cattle in 1897. This photo of Mary, the queen of the Milgate herd) comes from an album of pictures which include many of Milgate Park. Mary's achievements in 1908 at the Tunbridge Wells show included four first prizes, and 11% more cream of exceptional quality than any other cow.



Children's Puzzle: For the under 8s

Can you solve this riddle?

The answers are in the BWT Main Field.

**One flies in darkness, two flies by day,
Three, four and five will fly quickly away.
Six leaps through the trees, seven jumps near the lake;
Putting eight near to nine would be a mistake.
Ten keeps his family deep underground,
Eleven makes you jump - if at home he is found!**

Send your eleven answers to editor@bearstedwoodlandtrust.org in order (group 3, 4 and 5 together) and we'll reply. We'll include a photo of everyone who got the correct answers in our next newsletter.

DIARY DATES:

Saturday 30th June 2018

Come and visit our BWT stand at the Bearsted and Thurnham Fayre during the afternoon. You can see a display of our history, join our Friends or renew your subscription... and buy souvenirs.

Sunday 30th September 2018

The Annual General Meeting this year will be held at 2:30pm in the clubhouse of Bearsted Bowls Club, opposite our main entrance in Church Landway. The bar will be available from 2:00pm.

Editor: Judy Buckley Design: Paul J Street Printed by Reed Printers, Rochester

Judy thanks Kate Kersey and Michael Buckley for help with this issue.

Up to date news and further information about Bearsted Woodland Trust can be found at www.bearstedwoodlandtrust.org Please join the contributors to our nature notes page!

The website contact page is the easiest way to send us messages or to request this newsletter by email. We also welcome nature notes from BWT Friends.

Telephone 07807 917533 Please leave your name, number and message, and we'll return your call.

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