

Acknowledgements

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B.S. NAU and E.B. RANDS

PUTNOE WOOD 1973

Activities in Putnoe Wood on the part of both the Society and the Corporation were at a lower level than in previous years. Some more diseased Elms were felled in Area A and, once again, a large number of Sycamore seedlings were uprooted in the same part of the wood. The Society's main contributions, however, were in levelling the depressions in the Long Ride with top soil and in planting a number of young Hazel seedlings in one of the areas cleared two years earlier, with a view to establishing a better shrub layer.

Members of the Society again acted as wardens in the wood during the spring bluebell period, drawing the attention of would-be transgressors to the by-law forbidding the picking of wild flowers. Vandalism showed a welcome decrease, but the wood is now under continuous public pressure for much of the year and litter inevitably results; the southern ditch seems particularly unsightly and the Park staff appear quite indifferent to the situation.

A number of species of flowering plants was added to the list, bringing the total recorded for the wood to 125. The most interesting addition was probably that of the Wood Spurge, Euphorbia amygdaloides, which is a typical species of Boulder Clay woodlands. Some seem to have entered the wood from the neighbouring Mowsbury Hill and Park, such as the Dyer's Rocket, Reseda luteola, and the Hemlock, Conium maculatum, while others were water-plants which were probably always present in the stream but had merely escaped notice; these included the Fleabane, Pulicaria dysn-terica, the Marsh Woundwort, Stachys palustris, and the Wild Angelica, Angelica sylvestris. The wood's speciality, the hybrid between the Wood-and Water-Avens, continued to flourish in certain localities.

Our misgivings concerning the future of Putnoe Lane expressed in last year's article (Journal 27:46) have been fully realized. The grass verges bordering the ditches on both sides, which the Society's representatives endeavoured to save, have all disappeared beneath the 'blanket' of soil, and a survey carried out during the summer showed only a number of common annual weeds but none of the more interesting perennials previously recorded. The whole affair illustrates how the official craze for 'tidying-up' a site needs constant supervision if a wholesale loss of species is not to occur during the carrying out of otherwise quite desirable projects.

LIST OF NEW MEMBERS WHO JOINED DURING 1973

c - Corporate a - Associate s - Student

- Allsopp, Mrs E. M. P., 4 Cromwell Hill Road, Luton.
- s Arnold, P. R., 1a Linden Road, Dunstable.
- Arnold, V. W., 96 St. Augustine Avenue, Luton.
- Barton, B. F., 12 Osborne Way, Wiggington, Tring.
- s Berg, M., 23 Riddy Lane, Luton.
- s Blades, A., 71 Saywell Road, Luton.
- s Blades, S., 71 Saywell Road, Luton.
- s Bosworth, M. J., 8 Rectory Close, Slapton, Leighton Buzzard.
- Bradshaw, R. E., 31 Miletree Crescent, Dunstable.