

Lavenham Woodland. Project.

Chairman's report. 2024 / 2025.

On the 8th March 2025 John Knight, the inspiration behind the formation of Lavenham Woodland Project and the planting of Dyehouse Field Wood, very sadly died.

Through the planting of Dyehouse Field Wood in 2004, John leaves a wonderful legacy for all to enjoy, and the Trustees and volunteers are privileged to continue caring for our beautiful woodland. John was rightly very proud of all that has been achieved in the woodland. Over the last 20 years John wrote numerous articles about Dyehouse Field Wood in Lavenham Life. In this month's edition the editor has kindly reproduced the last article he wrote in May 2024. If you haven't read it then I would urge you do so.

This year, we have continued to regularly meet on the second Sunday of every month. We always need more volunteers. I would like to thank all our existing volunteers and trustees who contribute over 400 hours a year of their precious time. Whatever the weather they help us care for our 1,500 trees, 600 metres of hedging and 2,000 metres of footpaths. This year we had to buy over 30 cubic metres of chippings, costing nearly £400, for our footpaths.

Sometime during July 2024, we had a 'secret visit' from the Green Flag Award Judges and we're very pleased that they awarded us a second Green Flag Community Award.

In September we were very pleased that Lavenham Primary School were again able to visit our Forest School Area. The children were able to enjoy a variety of outdoor sessions in the woodland over a six week period. Thanks to a generous grant from Lavenham Parish Council and another generous donation, we are building a shelter adjacent to our Outdoor Activity Area which will be in use shortly.

15 Daubenton bats returned to the WW2 pill box on our site. They are now protected behind a wrought iron gate made by local blacksmith – Geoff Locke - and comfortably roosting in special handmade bricks from Bulmer Brick Works.

To celebrate 20 years since 170 village folk turned up to plant 1,200 trees in just over two hours, we are planning a special event and a grand raffle. This will be held on Sunday 13th July 2025. Please look out for more details. We hope that you will be able to come and join us.

David Jones. Chairman Lavenham Woodland Project.