

VISITOR CENTRE PROJECT NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2018

It's been a busy time since our last update, and with our new visitor centre course to open this summer – it looks as though the next few months will get even busier!

If you'd like further details on any of the subjects covered, or want more information about our project, please get in touch with the project communications manager, Helen Moffat – helen.moffat@rspb.org.uk

A BIRD'S EYE VIEW!

We celebrated Topping Out at Easter, which marked the point at which the building became water-tight, and invited along our consortium partners, and D2N2 Local Enterprise Agency, who have provided £500,000 funding for the project, to see the progress for themselves.

Since then, our contractors have been busy on internal work, and first fix is now complete, so the different areas of the centre are really starting to take shape.

Outside, the amphitheatre is almost finished, and a base layer of tarmac has been set around the building to help keep the site cleaner. Paving work along Forest Corner has also been completed, which will form part of our pedestrianised area, once we open this summer.



Photo credit: Woodhead Group

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VOLUNTEERS ARE SEW GOOD!



Whilst the RSPB is used to working with volunteers, and in many different capacities – asking for help to make a range of different medieval costumes was an unusual call, even for us!

We plan to have costumed guides in the forest as part of our new offer, and we have a dedicated team of volunteers who have been making these special garments.

We also need help to find the people who will fill these shoes – or tunics – and take on the roles. We are not looking for actors and entertainers, but volunteers who are wonderful story-tellers, great with people and who love the forest, and are keen to share its secrets with others, from tales of Robin Hood to talking about the magnificent oaks!

If you are interested in finding out more, contact paul.cowley@rspb.org.uk for more details.

TREE-MENDOUS EFFORT

Volunteers have been making a difference elsewhere on the project, too.

A huge thank you to the Environment Agency staff who volunteered a day and travelled from around the country to come and get involved in some tree-planting work at Sherwood.

The 20-strong team from the agency's National Asset Management Team planted an amazing 273 bare-rooted native trees and shrubs on the two banks adjacent to the coach turning circle and around the parking area in the centre's new car park, off Swinecote Road.



Thanks also to 90 staff from WYG's planning and advisory team who joined us at the start of June to plant more than 2,000 native plants around our car parking spaces.

Their work will ensure a great welcome for our visitors as soon as they arrive. Anyone interested in finding out more about corporate volunteering, please contact mike.harris@rspb.org.uk



SPRINGWATCH



We were delighted when the BBC's natural history film unit joined us at Sherwood recently to record our root radar work at the Major Oak for an episode of Springwatch.

We commissioned Sharon Hosegood Associates to carry out the survey - arboriculture consultants who use specialist scanning equipment to examine the health of a tree's root system.



It was the first time anyone had been able to see what is going on beneath the 1,000-year-old giant, and the results of the scan will help us to identify any major

health issues with the iconic tree, and improve its future care and management.

The results of the day's work were shown on BBC2's Springwatch programme on June 13 – watch on iPlayer, if you missed it!

Thanks to the Pauline Meredith Charitable Trust who made the funds available to carry out this vital work.

Welcome Gemma!



Last but by no means least, our new senior site manager, Gemma Howarth, came on board in March, to help see the completion of the project, and manage our new visitor centre going forwards, as we open to the public!

gemma.howarth@rspb.org.uk

For more information about our project, see our website, www.visitsherwood.co.uk

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