

## BRANCHLINES REPORT - ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2021

Branchlines, as a charitable voluntary group, manages Old School Wood, our community woodland, for the parish. This began in February 2008, when the first 3.5 acres of land was purchased and planting began. An extension of 2.5 acres was purchased in 2018. Our income is from various grants and from donations by parishioners and we have specialised insurance cover. We have run regular volunteer working parties and it is used by the school for forest school and other educational trips.

### Recent Developments

Old School Meadow, the area linking Old School Wood to the churchyard is now an established meadow. There is an annual autumn hay day to cut and rake up the hay. Thanks to a parish council grant, we now have a new motor scythe for cutting the hay. The new hedges and community orchard of 15 fruit trees have done well. Excavation of the new pond has commenced. The new area of woodland called The Glades has proved very popular for hosting the forest school. With a grant from Babergh DC comes an owl sculpture carved into an oak tree. He is called Oswald.

### Routine Work

We mowed paths and grass areas as necessary, once more with the generous help of local farmers, Mr. Cornish and Mr. Kiddy. We selectively cleared bramble and other invasive plants. We dealt with minor litter and dog waste problems. We have continued coppicing selected areas, including hazel and willow, using the cut branches to weave decorative low fences.

### Events

Our usual annual events were not possible with Covid 19 restrictions. With no AGM, David Taylor continued as chairman and Philip Howlett as treasurer.

### Plans

We will continue routine work. New seating is due to be installed and the new pond completed. We hope that annual events can resume this year, plus a hedge laying course in the autumn. David Taylor, chair.