

Due to lockdown, we have only held one volunteer day since then, with numbers restricted to six. Despite this, some of the members have been performing solo activities during this time: litter picking and clearing of areas ready for the tree planting season. With most of the leaves fallen, we’ll be performing some sweeping of the boardwalks to prevent rotting and make them easier to walk on.

We entered a competition to win a ‘disease-resistant elm’ tree and were successful. These trees are 100% resistant to Dutch elm trees which is still killing elms in Hob Hey Wood and endangering the rare white-letter hairstreak butterfly that lives there. In January, we’ll hold a tree planting ceremony to get this elm into the ground, hopefully, securing the future of the colony of butterflies.

Calendar sales are going well. We’ve sold the 100 printed with support of the council and had 50 more printed (costs covered by HHWFG). This has been an extremely valuable income generator for the group.

We have 220 trees to plant in the wood in December. We’re hoping to get them in the ground early in the month with two sessions to give as many people as possible a chance to plant a tree (limited to six people per session, of course).

For the Amenities Committee Meeting in early 2021, I will produce a full report of the groups activities in 2020, together with plans for 2021.

I would like to put £5,000 in the budget for maintenance in Hob Hey Wood by FTC. Some of the boardwalks in the southern part of the wood may need replacement in late 2021 and there's a bridge and steps that may need attention at the same time. This would need to be performed by FTC contractors similar to the replacement of the northern boardwalk. For like-for-like replacement, I suspect £5,000 will more than cover it. HHWFG currently have no plans that would need FTC support (although we will be asking for £100 in February to renew the group's liability insurance).