

Friends of Park Wood

London Rd (A3), between Wallis & Queens Roads, Waterlooville

WINTER 2011 Newsletter

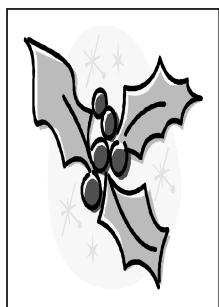
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HAPPY NEW YEAR

This has been another successful year for the Friends of Park Wood. Achieved by the interest that local residents have shown in the wood, whether it be by helping on the work days, being a warden, attending events or just by being a member. Presently we have over 110 members and that is FANTASTIC. The old saying, use it or lose it comes to mind, so we must ensure the Park Wood continues to be used and maintained for community use.



Mulled Wine and Mince Pies. – Monday 27 December

28 people came into the wood to partake of mulled wine and mince pies. It was cold but dry and everyone agreed it was a nice way to finish Christmas. Particular thanks must go to The Co op in Cowplain who donated the wine and mince pies, freshly baked and delicious. Next year we hope more people will join us.

A few brave souls did turn up before the mulled wine and planted some new trees in the woods. When you walk around you may see some sticks with orange tips. These mark the sites of the new trees. Presently very small but they will grow! Varieties are all native species and found in the wood - wild cherry, hazel, Dog rose, hawthorn, crab apple, rowan.

What have you seen?

In the last newsletter we asked what creatures people has seen in or around the woods. One person did report seeing baby badgers in her garden. So there must be a sett somewhere? Also there was a stag seen in the Queens enclosure

No more news on the funding application for the survey but we will keep you posted. The survey is to look at what changes have occurred and hopefully show improvements to the biodiversity of the wood.

Physical Activity officer



Sophie Jevons is the Physical Activity Officer at Havant Borough Council working to get more adults doing 5 x 30 minutes a week of Physical Activity! Sophie introduced the Get Active Havant campaign in June 2009 and since then the amount of adults doing 5 x 30 minutes a week in Havant has risen from 16% to 29%. Sophie attends events, puts on Return to Sport courses and helps fund new exercise classes in the borough of Havant. However, the campaign is not all about sport but promoting free ways you can spend your 30 minutes such as walking, gardening and doing the housework! Sophie is getting more involved with woodland work and will be volunteering from her own time to help with Park Wood. To find out more about the Get Active Havant campaign log on to

www.getactivehavant.co.uk

Sales of Forestry Commission Land

You may have seen the article in the News or on Radio Solent or signs around Queens Enclosure about the sale of forests. Concerns have been growing and MP's are receiving increasing numbers of letters prompted by the Save Our Forests campaign on the internet. Our local MP, George Hollingbery, has written to the Minister asking for clarification of the position regarding Queens Inclosure and Creech Wood in Denmead and whether this ancient woodland could be put up for disposal. The consultation period is over the next few weeks. The Woodland Trust are campaigning vigorously and their views and an up-to-date situation can be found on their website www.woodlandtrust.org.uk. You can also find information on www.38degrees.org.uk

Fancy exploring a new wood in your area?

Woods are fantastic places to spend time and experience nature, whatever the season. There are almost 14,000 you can visit across the UK, and Visit Woods aims to encourage more of us to go out and enjoy all they have to offer.

"Wow, just done a search and I didn't even know half these woods existed!"

[Visitwoods.org.uk](http://www.visitwoods.org.uk) is a new interactive website, set up by the Woodland Trust, showcasing stunning woods. Packed with everything you need to plan a great day out, the site will include searchable maps, inspiring ideas, free activities and space to upload your photos and tips.

But they want help! They need enthusiastic people to inspire others by sharing experiences of fantastic days out in the woods. Be part of something big and help make visiting woods the nation's favourite pastime!

Simply choose a wood from the list, click to view details and use the *Add*, *Rate* and *Tell* links around the page to share your photos, stories and tips.

WORK PROGRAMME FOR PARK WOOD

Sunday 30/1/11	Workday	Woodland management- Coppicing
Sunday 27/2/11	Workday	Woodland Management- Coppicing
Sunday 27/3/11	Workday	Pulling sycamore and laurel
Wednesday 20/4/11	Social/ AGM	Waterlooville Baptist Church
Sunday 30/4/11	Workday	Path Work
Wednesday 18/5/11	Family Event	Bat and Moth Walk
Sunday 29/5/11	Family Event	Discover plants trees, insects and identify
Sunday 29/5/11	Workday	Pulling sycamore and laurel
Sunday 26/6/11	Family event	Spider Hunt!
Sunday 31/7/11	Workday	Path work
Sat/Sun 24&25/9/11	Workday	Hay cutting weekend in meadows
Sunday 30/10/11	Workday	General Tidy



SPARROWS

The results of the Sparrow Survey are now available on <http://www3.hants.gov.uk/hampshire-countryside/housesparrow>

There is a lot of information on the website, but here is a taster.

Counting sparrows

Sparrows are extremely sociable birds and during the breeding season tend to form loose groups of 10 - 20 pairs. Where recorders were able to count the number of sparrows, many saw fewer than six birds, suggesting low breeding densities. Despite this, a small number of recorders were lucky enough to find larger colonies of 20 or 30 sparrows, and some as many as 60 or more birds. This mixed picture reveals that in some areas of Hampshire, sparrows are thriving, but we still have gaps in our knowledge from areas where no records were received.

Sparrows at home

88% of all records received were observed from people's homes - from **gardens, balconies** and **communal areas**. Along with farmland, gardens are known to be the preferred habitat of House Sparrows, historically offering suitable places to find food, nest, and bring up young.

Places to nest

Close to half the number of nests recorded were found in **roofs**, followed by **hedges** and **nest boxes**.

Sparrows are opportunists when it comes to finding a good nest site and have managed to make the most of some unusual locations. During the survey we received multiple records of sparrow nests up **telegraph poles**, in **air vents**, within **conifers** and abandoned **House Martin nests**.

The House Sparrow is in significant decline nationally, but there are wide differences between the status of populations in different regions of the country. We hope to contribute to this knowledge through the results of this survey.

Fun, fresh air and fables at Park Wood!

Hampshire County Council's Countryside Service has received funding from the Aiming High for Disabled Children programme to develop 6 'story trails' in Hampshire's countryside. We have asked Orange Apples, a professional story telling company, to write us a story based sites across the County. There are three strands to the project: events where Orange Apples tell the stories, a training day for site staff and volunteers* so that they can learn storytelling skills and a leaflet pack which families can use to tell the stories themselves as self guided trails. There is a small amount of money also available for some physical improvement to the paths as well as props and craft materials for the events themselves.

We are really excited about the project and are delighted that you have given us permission to use Park Wood as one of the venues. Hopefully through the project we will be able to encourage families who don't usually venture into the countryside to come out and enjoy the fresh air and freedom of the outdoors. We can also use the opportunity ourselves to learn a bit more about the small improvements we can make to our sites and the way we communicate, to ensure that we are as welcoming as we possibly can be to everyone.

The Park Wood event is scheduled for **6th March at 10am**. It would be great if you could get the word out to as many people as possible. Though the event is mainly targeted at children with disabilities and their families, everyone is welcome. The only thing I would say is that booking is essential! More details are available on our website: <http://www.hants.gov.uk/storytrails> or by phoning our office on 01962 845319.

Thanks for your support!
Emma Noyce
Hampshire County Council

**Interested in the training to be a storyteller? Then let me know ASAP as only a few spaces. Jackie*

Big Garden Bird Watch – 29-30 January 2011 – RSPB

Take an hour off to enjoy nature!

Watch the birds in your garden for an hour any time during the weekend of 29/30 January.

Record the highest number of each species you see at any one time, but do not total them up over the hour, as you may record the same bird twice.

Don't record those that fly over, only those that land

Complete a form (let Jackie know if you need one) or complete form online at www.rspb.org.uk/birdwatch.

If you do not see any birds that should also be reported



Dates for your diary:

Wednesday 20/4/11 Social and AGM Try to come as more the merrier, more information soon

Wednesday 18/5/11 Family event – Bat and Moth walk

Dog walkers - bins

We are still waiting for these to be installed, but we are chasing for them.

Wardens

Do you walk the wood regularly, then why not sign up to be a warden. This means you agree to pick up litter (you will be given a litter picker) and report any problems in the wood to David Nye, coordinator. Interested then contact **Dave Nye 023 9223 2942 or email davidnye@ntlworld.com**

Have you any comments on this newsletter, or an article that you would like included in the next edition, then let me know

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