

Friends of Park Wood Newsletter Summer 2021

The Wait Is Over! Volunteer Days Return



Yippee!!! We are back on the last Sunday of the month.

At last, we have been told that the Friends of Park Wood can take up tools as a group and hold workdays in the wood after a long absence.

For the time being just like everywhere else in our post pandemic world the May workday will be organised a little differently from how it used to be.

When on site we will split the work parties into either household bubbles or groups that fit the Rule of 6. We will ask you to maintain social distancing but as we are working outside there is no need for face masks, however that is an entirely personal choice.

There will be sanitizer wipes and gel on site for the use of everyone to prevent cross contamination. Please bring your own refreshments with you. You are also advised to provide your own work gloves. Things may well be back to a more normal way of working if the easing of lockdown measures continue as planned in June.

So please put Sunday 30th May and Sunday 27th June in your diary. We will be on site from 10 a.m. and everyone is welcome to join us for the morning.



Membership renewal

It is time for to renew your membership. Because of the pandemic, last year we simply extended the 2019 membership, but during the past year, we have still had to meet costs including renewing our insurance and website.

Your membership donation helps to meet these annual costs of running the Friends. When we have specific projects in the Wood such as improving the paths, installing seats, providing training for our volunteers and public events we have to apply for grants or obtain donations.

The Woodland Trust meets the cost of the annual maintenance programme and emergency tree works undertaken by outside contractors.

Please return your membership donation of £5 to cover the period from April 2021 to March 2022 with a membership form to Mo Walters our Membership Secretary as soon as possible.

If you live close to the wood and have new neighbours who are not members, please tell them about the group and invite them to join us.

What's Planned For The Wood This Year

This year Park Wood has been more heavily used by the wider community than ever before. which means there is a lot of work to do on the site.

Over the coming year we plan to repair or replace damaged information boards, benches, posts, and fencing, restore some of the main paths, install two new sculptured benches, and replace the rubbish bins which are looking past their best.

As well as these jobs there are still ditches to clear, meadows to manage, tree work, path cutting and litter picking.

We are lucky to have been given a donation of £3000 by the Waterloooville Allotments Association which will be used to pay for a chainsaw artist to carve two new benches as well as enable us to buy the materials we need for other projects in the wood.



Annual General Meeting



Due to the pandemic and the lockdowns, we didn't hold our AGM last year. Instead the committee carried over and the 2019 membership was extended to this year until the easing of lock-down restrictions.

We will be holding a short AGM to elect a new committee on Wednesday 23rd June at 7pm. We will have a short meeting in the wood which will be followed by the opportunity to join a guided walk explaining future management plans for the wood and the chance to learn about the types of trees we have in the wood, how to identify them in the summer and their traditional uses.

We are looking for new people to join our group committee. Being on the committee involves attending committee meetings roughly every two months. These are very informal and are important for planning workdays and any events that we might want to have.

If you would like to put your name down for the committee, please contact our chair Pete Hodges via e-mail pete.hodges3@ntlworld.com or telephone: 07565 058965.

Spring in the Wood

As we write, the trees are adorned with the first flush of green, their leaves not yet devoured by caterpillars and other insects.

On the woodland floor with longer days and more sunlight, wildflowers are blooming. Bluebells are in flower along with cuckoo pint, wood anemones, lesser celandine, dog violet, dog mercury, speedwell, wild garlic, forget-me-not and wood sorrel.



In a few weeks it will be the turn of foxgloves and orchids to shine. Birds are nesting and rearing their young, including a pair of blue tits that we saw flying in and out of a tree hole taking food to their chicks.

Life in Park Wood has woken up after the long sleep of winter. So go into the wood and take it all in.



Pete Hodges
Chair of the Friends of Park Wood

Membership Application Form

Membership is due annually on 1st April each year.

You can join at anytime during the year though.

It is open to all those who are interested in, or care for, Park Wood.

All Friends will receive regular Newsletters with updated information on Park Wood.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

POSTCODE _____

TELEPHONE _____

E-MAIL _____

I agree by ticking this box that I will receive the occasional email from Friends of Park Wood.

I / we support the objectives of the Park Wood Project and apply to join The Friends of Park Wood. Membership covers everyone living at the same address. I enclose a donation towards the Friends of Park Wood; a minimum donation of £5.00 is suggested.

Signed

Please return this form to the Membership Secretary:

Mo Waters
23C Queens Road
Waterlooville
PO7 7SB

Email: badgerlass104@aol.com

Telephone: 023 9226 9052

www.park-wood.org