



# Friends of Park Wood

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

## WINTER 2012 Newsletter

Visit our website: [www.park-wood.org](http://www.park-wood.org) Email: [press@park-wood.org](mailto:press@park-wood.org)

Tel: 023 9226 6418 or 023 9223 2942

### Pub Quiz

All Welcome

The Woodpecker pub  
First Wednesday  
each month



### 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 80 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.

### Mince Pies and Mulled Wine

The weather was kind as 30 people gathered to partake of Mulled wine and mince pies under the trees by the feet

### Work plan for Park Wood

#### Holly

Many of you may wonder why and what is happening with the holly within Park Wood. Since nearly all of the seriously invasive plants (remember all the Laurel and Bamboo?) have been dealt with by our steady work programmes, most of these areas have been colonised by masses of young Holly, some from seeding but mostly by vigorous suckers from older root systems.

#### WHY

Holly is native to the wood but now completely dominates many areas, casting really dense shade, preventing virtually all other plants from growing in competition with it, particularly the important ancient ground flora and other underwood, such as Hazel.

#### WHAT

It was decided we would apply to the Forestry Commission for grant-aid to help us bring the Holly back under control by coppicing. John Stride, the local Woodland Officer inspected the problem and recommended stump treatment to control 90% of the Holly, so all other native species can flourish. This extended action has been accepted as beneficial by the Woodland Trust and Havant Borough Council.

#### SO

So the plan will tackle this 90% of the Holly by working in different parts of the wood over the next three years. Well formed Holly trees, representing the other 10%, will be retained, although the prolific suckers and lower branches will be removed to allow much more light for the ground flora and to improve visitor visibility.

This will involve felling, treating stumps with Round-Up, debranching, stacking of cordwood and burning of lop and top.

#### Oak Saplings

Clearance has begun on the scrub under young oaks in the south meadow. The aim is to get rid of saplings that are spindly, diseased or suffered a large amount of squirrel damage. This applies in the front meadow as well. This will give a greater space and opportunity for the stronger saplings to grow into mature oak trees. Again this action has been approved.

This will really improve the biodiversity of Park Wood and your woodland experience but please bear with us whilst this is being undertaken OR better still help us in whatever capacity you can.

## 'Homes for wildlife'

This exciting new activity by the RSPB, aims to inspire people to make a real difference for the wildlife that shares the open space closest to them - their garden. It aims to help a range of wildlife, including familiar birds that have seriously declined.

By taking part in Homes for Wildlife, you can make a real difference to their fortunes and help to reverse the declines. They hope that thousands of you across the UK will be able to make your homes and gardens richer in wildlife by following the simple wildlife gardening advice that they provide.

You can do as much, or as little, as you like. From a few potted plants on a balcony, to putting up a nesting box, to digging a pond and planting trees in a garden – everything will help. All they need to make it work is you!

For more information and to register go to:  
<http://www.rspb.org.uk/hfw/about/whatisit.aspx>

## WORK PROGRAMME FOR PARK WOOD

*Subject to change*

Sunday 29/01/12	Workday	Woodland Management Coppicing
Sunday 26/2/12	Workday	Woodland Management Coppicing
25/3/12	Workday/ <b>Family event</b>	Pulling sycamore and laurel <b>Family Easter Egg Hunt</b>
Monday 23/4/12	<b>Social/ AGM</b> 7.30pm	Woodpecker Pub London Road Waterlooville
Sunday 29/4/12	Workday	Path work
Sunday 27/5/12	Workday	Pulling sycamore and laurel
Sunday 24/6/12	Workday	General tidy
Sunday 29/7/12	Workday	Path work
Sat/Sun 8/09/12 9/09/12	Workday	Hay cutting weekend in the meadows <b>Everyone needed</b>

## Wych Elm Tree



A 4 foot Wych Elm tree was donated to the wood by the Glen family in Fareham. It held special memories for them but they could not accommodate it in their garden. We were delighted to accept it and here you can see two volunteers planting it in its new home in the wood.

Will you spot it in the spring??

## Social (and informal AGM) Monday 23 April 2012 7.30pm

It has been decided to hold a social in the Woodpecker Pub, London Road, Waterlooville. The accounts for the past year will be presented and the new committee confirmed. It will also be an opportunity to meet fellow members. Put the date in your diary. We hope as many as possible will attend.

## Committee

As usual about this time of year we start to ask for volunteers to come on the committee. As per the constitution officers can only stay for 3 years which means that Paul Buckley (chairman), and Inga Ridley Jones (treasurer) will be standing down. Is there anyone out there who would be willing to take on these roles? If you would like to know what the roles entail give me a call. Skills needed are an interest in the woods and enthusiasm! Thanks must go to Paul and Inga for all their hard work.

## Easter Egg Hunt - Sunday 25 March

Seems a long way off, even if the eggs are already in the shops! This event was a success last year and we are hoping even more families will attend. **You do not need children, even adults need some fun!!**

If you would like to attend you will need a ticket. It is free to members. £1 to others. The ticket will ensure we have enough eggs.

**Story trails.** At last the story is available. Just go to [www.hants.gov.uk/storytrails](http://www.hants.gov.uk/storytrails) and follow the numbered posts in the wood. Enjoy!

## Badges

A few months ago the FoPW Committee decided that it would be good to have some badges for wardens to wear when walking the wood. These have now been made for us by PCMI Signs at Cosham, an organisation which provides employment opportunities for disabled people. The purpose of these badges is to "advertise" the fact that these woods are looked after by FoPW, reinforcing the message in one of the more recent posters on the notice boards. Wearing them is not compulsory, but any warden who would like one should contact David Nye on 02392 2320942.

## Feedback

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

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