

## Spring & Summer Update 2020

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*Common Spotted Orchid in flower in Park Wood*

Just like everyone else we have had to curtail our activities due to the pandemic.

However, despite the virus stopping volunteer work, Park Wood like all Woodland Trust sites was open for local people to exercise in during the lock down. The Trust stopped all work visits by staff, contractors and volunteers to their sites in March, so for now, we have cancelled our planned events and work parties until government advice allows the Trust to permit volunteer work groups to start up again when we will resume our Friends work parties.

For the time being, the Woodland Trust is allowing individual volunteer wardens to visit sites to inspect their condition provided they are working in accordance with social distancing guidelines and have appropriate risk assessments for lone working.

*If you would like to become one of our volunteer wardens, please contact Gill Bryden who co-ordinates the days that wardens visit Park Wood. Gill: 07803 968763*

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## Strimming

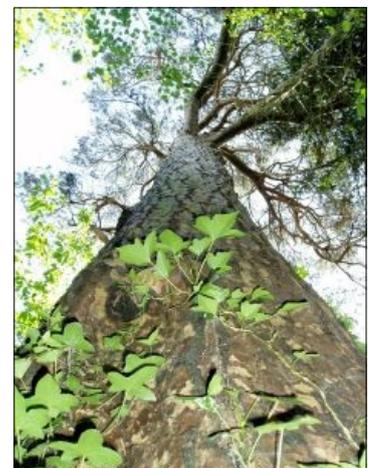
Sometime in the next few weeks a contractor will be working in the wood strimming the paths. Unless health and safety issues arise, this will be the only time this summer that a contractor will be working Park Wood. We hope that we will be back in the woods in time to cut and rake the meadows in September if restrictions have been lifted enough to allow us to have work parties.

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## Litter

Generally, over the lock down, litter has not been a major problem in Park Wood thanks to the volunteers who have used their exercise time to help care for the wood. We are lucky that people living around Park Wood value it.

Sadly, in other green spaces close to housing, it is not the same story while the tips have been shut, rubbish and garden waste has been dumped instead of going to the tip. Under the Environmental Protection Act 1990 this is an offence and fly tipping carries a hefty fine, so let us continue the good work and keep Park Wood rubbish free for the enjoyment of everyone.



## Management Plan

During the lock down period the new management plan for the next five years has been produced. It is now with Havant Borough Council for obtaining TPO consent. We are lucky that Park Wood has legal protection although it does mean that we cannot do any tree work in the new management plan until permission is given by the Council.

Once this is received, the Trust can begin to implement the new work plan for our wood. Hopefully by the autumn months we shall be able to run a full and varied programme of woodland management tasks which I hope everyone will find enjoyable and rewarding.

We will let you know when our monthly work parties can resume. In the meantime, please feel free to visit Park Wood to enjoy the benefits of being out in the woodland.

## Extended Membership

Finally, due to the pandemic closing everything we have decided to extend memberships from last year to cover this year. I am hoping that we will be able to have a membership meeting later in the year at which Phil Truluck our Woodland Trust site manager can present the new management plan. Details when things are clearer.

Pete Hodges.  
Chair of the Friends of Park Wood.

