

## Friends of Park Wood Newsletter Summer and Autumn 2021

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### Big Work Party Weekend – Barrowers, shovelers and rakers wanted!



Come and join our volunteers in Park Wood on any of our work party activities on **Friday 24<sup>th</sup>, Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> September**. This weekend we want to complete two major tasks in the wood.

We will be resurfacing some of our main paths which have been heavily used during the lockdowns and we shall be cutting and raking the grassy glades in the wood to encourage a richer diversity of plants that in turn attract a greater range of insect and bird life into our wood.

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### Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> September at 2 p.m Introduction to Park Wood and woodland conservation walk

Join the Friends of Park Wood for an easy stroll around the wood learning about its history, wildlife, and conservation management. Meet at the Entrance to Park Wood on the London Road between Wallis Road and Queens Road in Waterlooville.

Our working weekend and walk are just two of the activities being added to the programme of local conservation and environmental events that are going on across the country during Big Green Week (18<sup>th</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> September), a national week celebrating action to combat climate change.



Big Green Week is being co-ordinated nationally by the Climate Coalition and in our borough by Havant Climate Alliance. The week aims to raise public awareness of climate change and how people can help to reduce its effects either by practical action to conserve our environment, or make lifestyle choices such as recycling more, reduce waste, buy local food and products, reduce

air pollution using greener power sources. During the week local conservation and green groups will have the opportunity to have stands in the Meridian Centre in Havant. Please look out for what is going on locally.

## New Benches and posts



Thanks to a generous donation from the Waterlooville Allotments Association, we now have two carved oak benches made from an oak tree which was felled in the wood last winter. The benches were carved by Edd the Tree Pirate a chainsaw artist who is originally from Waterlooville and now travels around the country carving.

Over 8 days Edd carved the two benches, one for the front meadow and one placed near the walled garden. The bees theme relates to both the importance of nature conservation and the role of pollinators in horticulture.



All the comments we have had about the benches have been positive, raising interest in the wood and the group through coverage in the Portsmouth News and on social media.

Thanks to Jackie Buckley who posted the information on Waterlooville Community Facebook sites which have got loads of likes and great comments about Park Wood and the new benches.



The bench in the meadow we will dedicating to the memory of members past who are no longer with us. Plaques will be put on it for Dave Tucker, Paddy and John Stevens who were all involved in Park Wood in the early days. Other names can be added. Please contact Maureen or Pete for more information.

Speaking of posts, we are replacing the story trail posts in Park Wood as the existing ones come to the end of their useful life. We have the arrowed trail markers but not the larger numbered discs so the replacement posts will be routed with the story trail symbol and number. Details of the story trail can be obtained from the Library or Hantsweb the County Council website.

## Forthcoming Workdays

With a Bank Holiday weekend at the end of this month there is no Sunday workday in August. Our next working weekend will be at the end of September.

We will be looking for volunteers on **Friday 24<sup>th</sup>, Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> September**. Work will be a choice of either raking our meadows or helping to resurface some of our main paths. If you have a wheelbarrow or a rake you can bring along, that would be very helpful. Work parties will start at 10 am each day.

For our planned Sunday work parties in October and November we will be restarting the winter season woodland work including coppicing and clearing the ditches.

Over this winter we will be trying out some **midweek work parties** for those of you who find it easier to make time during the week.

From the first Wednesday in October, we will be holding a monthly work party in the wood followed by work parties on the 1st Wednesdays in November and December. Dates are the **6th October, 3rd November and 1st December**. Each Wednesday we will meet at 10am and finish around lunchtime

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## Membership



If you haven't already renewed your membership, please contact our membership secretary Maureen Nye via email:

[maureenye@ntlworld.com](mailto:maureenye@ntlworld.com)

You can download the membership form on the Friends website, we would appreciate a donation to help meet the costs of running the group.

We suggest a £5 donation (about the equivalent of two cups of coffee at my local cafe!).

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Pete Hodges  
Chair of the Friends of Park Wood