



AUTUMN 2012 - Greetings from your Committee Members

Sunday 14th October - Work Party (11.00 a.m.), Children's Event (1.30 p.m.)

On Sunday 14th October at 11:00am the Friends of Knolls Wood working party will be carrying out conservation work and at 1:30pm we will be holding a children's event showing how we manage a wood including how to remove small trees and use tools safely – and of course have a bit of fun.

Also, if any residents would like to discuss how our Management Plan should be developed Bob Holland our Greensand Trust Countryside Ranger will be on site to answer questions

Friends of Knolls Wood AGM

Our Annual General Meeting was held in the restaurant building at Stockgrove Park on 12th June 2012. As in previous years this was open to all members of the local community a number of whom attended to hear a review of the Association's activities in the past year.

As well as the formal business of reporting on an amended Constitution (available for viewing on our web site), the acting Chairman outlined some of the achievements of the year which included the installation of a new notice board at the north eastern Sandy Lane entrance to the woods which was designed procured and built by our own members. Other activities reported were the various work party days where general maintenance and tree planting took place and the children's event which centred around Bat Box building.

It was very pleasing also to note that a most successful year was enjoyed with regard to donations that allow the on- going work of the Association. As well as the generosity of door step collections from local residents, we also received a sum from Waitrose in the town. In addition, these sums in part allowed us to obtain a further grant from the Town Council so all in all we look well set to be able to continue the maintenance and improvements to our local woodland for the enjoyment of present and future residents.

After the formal business of the meeting, the evening concluded with a very informative and enjoyable presentation from Malcolm Oliver of the local Geology Group on the subject "The Greensand Ridge – What's Under Our Feet". Who knew the effect Glaciers and ancient seas had on our current environment?

Knolls Wood

Hunt the Monkey Puzzle Tree

Free Family Event

Come along and help us find the baby monkey puzzle trees and help conserve them.

Meet outside 55 redwood glade on Sunday 14th October. 1:30pm - 3:00pm
Children must be accompanied by an adult. Wear strong shoes or boots.
Gloves and tools provided

For more information call 01525 234260



Knolls Wood - Management for the future

Knolls Wood was originally a sparsely wooded heath. In the 19th century it was created as an ornamental plantation with species from around the world and grand beech avenues. The golden chestnut, monkey puzzle trees and large beeches still remind us of this history.

Successive Councils and the Friends of Knolls Wood have sought to protect this special area by ensuring any dead trees and the rhododendron is properly managed.

The wood is now getting old and species that readily self-seed - sycamore, birch, holly and rhododendron - are beginning to dominate. A survey carried out last year by Central Bedfordshire Council identified a number of trees that are now unsafe and therefore need to be reduced or removed in the next 12 months. Furthermore, the self-seeding trees are now dominating the oriental trees and are cutting out light on the woodland floor and stopping any wild flowers growing.

With the need to remove unsafe trees I am also investigating with the Council Tree Officer a “thinning” programme to conserve the wood and maintain a balance of tree species. This plan will be developed over the next year, but we can start now in some areas.

www.knollswood.com