

Friends of Knolls Wood

Newsletter



AUTUMN / WINTER 2009 - Greetings from your committee members

FoKW Working Party – Sunday 15 November, from 11a.m. to 1p.m.

The next work party will be on 15 November, when we hope to be able to plant some new trees and bushes as well as generally sprucing things up ahead of the winter months. If you would like to help, please meet outside 55 Redwood Glade (near the Greensand Trust vehicle) on the day, or make contact via the web site: www.knollswood.com Just click on the Contacts tab to register your interest.

Request for Beech Saplings

Does anyone have any beech saplings about 1m high in their gardens they can donate? We could use them to revive Beech Avenue. It's best to take one from a group to leave the others with more light and nutrients.

Summer Work Party and Barbecue

Our second 2009 work day in the woods took place on 21st June. A really good turnout of over 20 people consisting of committee members and volunteers turned up ready to pitch in to tidy up the woods. The main focus was on Monkey Puzzle Avenue and paths connecting to it. With John Creasey (Greensand Trust) providing much appreciated mechanised support, short shrift was given to mowing and clearing the verges. Our army of helpers raked up the cut nettles and ivy, and rolled the bundles away into the undergrowth. It was heavy work, partly because the verges were overgrown, but also because it was a hot day. However, given the good turnout the job was done in less than three hours (including a tea break) and the main paths into the woods were made accessible and ready for dog walkers, bird watchers, nature lovers to enjoy.



After all the hard work the volunteers were rewarded with a barbecue held on one of the open verge areas in Redwood Glade and more friends and neighbours joined in. In all, about 30 people spent a few pleasant hours in the afternoon sunshine. The day was deemed a great success, and the Friends of Knolls Wood are delighted to have had so much support. Thanks to all who made the day so rewarding.

Friends of Knolls Wood Children's Event

The Friends of Knolls Wood and The Greensand Trust held another children's event on 13th September. We joined up with the Leighton Buzzard "Bug Lab Tour Summer 2009". This gave children an opportunity to go bug hunting in the wood, armed with a net and some pots to capture bugs. The children were soon bringing back plenty of finds to have a closer look at under microscopes. They also got a chance to make their own "Junk Bugs", where they could let their imagination run wild and design their own bug out of bits of cardboard, plastic and other odds and ends, and then take it home.

FoKW AGM Tuesday June 2nd 2009

Thank you to all who attended our AGM on Tuesday June 2nd at 8pm in the restaurant at Stockgrove Country Park. The evening began with reports from the Chairman and the Treasurer, after which the election of the committee took place. Following this David Alderman, Arboricultural Officer for Central Bedfordshire, gave a talk entitled "The Trees of Knolls Wood". David has extensive knowledge and experience of Knolls Wood and surrounding areas. His talk enlightened everyone about our ancient woods and included many photographs of key trees.

Redwings around Knolls Wood



Redwings are in the thrush family, similar in size and appearance to song thrushes, apart from the rusty red patch under their wings and the prominent white stripe above their eyes (the redwings, that is).

We have seen two or three redwings in our garden in the last few weeks, having a go at the berries on our mountain ash. They are extremely nervous, easily seen off by the much more aggressive blackbirds, and instantly flying off at the merest hint of the presence of a human. They have arrived, probably from somewhere in Scandinavia, and will be around (in the widest sense of the word) until spring next year, when they'll go back and breed there. They always

seem to start off looking for the berries from various trees and bushes, and after those have run out, they go for worms. Then you might see them in flocks, along with their winter thrush companions the fieldfares (grey head, no red patch), in a field such as the one below the Wood, or in Woburn Park.

They are one of those species of bird which tells you that a seasonal change is happening – in this case, they say that winter's on its way, so get ready to wrap up warm.

Date for your 2010 Diary: The '1st Work Party 2010' will be on Sunday, 28th February

www.knollswood.com

Have you looked at our website recently? Are you interested in what we do? We use this to communicate with you and would like you all to be aware of recent updates. Please visit the site to see more of our pictures. Do any of you have any good seasonal pictures of Knolls Wood?

If you send some to us we will put the best ones on our site.