

Friends of Knolls Wood

Newsletter



AUTUMN 2008 - Greetings from your committee.

AGM JUNE 2008

This year's Friends of Knolls Wood Annual General Meeting was well attended. Light refreshments were served before the main business of the evening got underway. All committee members were re-elected; Victor Jones as Chairman, Clive Atkins as Treasurer, Maggie Cook as Secretary, together with Tony Green, Joan Kiddle, Jenny Monk, Jack Owens and Jane Parry. Having lost two committee members, Carol and Robin Banks, who moved from the area in February, we were delighted to welcome a new member, Toni Seldon, who volunteered to join the committee for 2008-9. Victor Jones, Chairman, outlined the committee's plans for the coming year, the main objective being to improve Knolls Wood in partnership with The Greensand Trust. The meeting agreed for donations to be collected to fund this year's activities. Those present were very positive about the work of The Friends of Knolls Wood.

After the formal meeting, Stephen Coleman, Historic Environment Officer at County Hall, gave a very interesting presentation about "Knolls Wood, 4000 years of heath land use, archaeology and history". We heard about the history of Leighton Buzzard from pre-historic times (primitive tools have been found in the woods) to the present day.

Summer Work Party

Volunteers met in Redwood Glade at the north eastern entrance to Knolls Wood for our summer work party at 11.00 am on Sunday 22nd June. The Greensand Trust were on hand to oversee matters and with equipment available for us to use in addition to the implements that volunteers brought. Scythes and shears made inroads into the undergrowth that had encroached on the fringes of the main thoroughfare of Monkey Puzzle walk and the heavy duty rakes were put to good effect in clearing the resulting vegetation debris. We do not take this debris away, rather we roll it into a suitable area fringing the paths where it can settle naturally and provide both habitat and nutrients in the process. It is energetic work, but those who were not able to commit to a heavier physical role or could not get hold of one of the tools were just as welcome and effective in lighter tasks of collecting and bagging general litter.



Our next work party will be on 16th November when the emphasis will be on replanting. New volunteers are welcome and further details can be found on our web site. It is both a good workout and a sociable occasion. Come and join us and help us sustain our woods for all to enjoy!

Children's Event Sunday 14th September

The Bug Lab Tour 2008 is stopping at Knolls Wood this September so join The Friends of Knolls Wood and The Greensand Trust to discover creepy crawlies living in the wood! There will also be the chance to make your own colourful creature to take home with you. **So come along and hunt for hidden mini-beasts between 1pm and 3pm on Sunday 14th September meeting outside 55 Redwood Glade.** All children must be accompanied by an adult. Call John Creasey on 01525 237760 for more information.

Request for Donations to the Friends of Knolls Wood:

The Friends of Knolls Wood are local people who recognise the importance of maintaining Knolls Wood. We depend on financial donations from those who share our opinions and who benefit from our unique and beautiful woodland. Previously, such donations have allowed us to invest for their continuing future.

The Friends of Knolls Wood ask for your financial support to help us deliver our objectives:

- *To work with the Greensand Trust (GST) and South Beds District Council (SBDC) to maintain Knolls Wood*
- *To prevent exploitation of, or threats to, the woodland and local environment*
- *To monitor long-term planning and involve the local community*
- *To preserve the history of the woods*

Your financial support is vital:

With enough funding we will:

- *Implement our Management Plan;*
- *Replace our aging Scots Pines, which are nearing the end of their lives;*
- *Plant additional specimen trees in Knolls Wood;*
- *Continue to work with local schools to organise children's activities; and,*
- *Improve the entrances to Knolls Wood.*

If you would like to see our Management Plan it's on our website at www.knollswood.com

We are interested in your views, what you think is important and what difference we can make. Please talk with the FoKW committee member who will call collect your donation during September or use the Contact Form on our website.

Obviously, the more money we can raise, the more we can do.

Friends of Knolls Wood Donation 2008

Please accept the sum of £5 / £10 / £25 / £50 as a donation to the FoKW. (Please delete as appropriate)

ADDRESS: _____ Date: _____

A committee member will call to collect your donation during September. Alternatively, please return this slip with a cheque to our Treasurer at 57 Redwood Glade.

www.knollswood.com