



SPRING 2008 - Greetings from your committee members.

Welcome to our Spring edition. If you haven't already noticed, we have changed our name to **Friends of Knolls Wood**, updated our logo and relaunched our web site. Our aim with the new web site is to communicate more effectively and keep interested people better informed. What better way than via the Internet, in addition to the direct contact that we continue to appreciate? We wish to spread our information to a wider public and educate them as to the importance of the woods, the local environment and surroundings. We also welcome your input and comments. The new web site includes the history of the woods, how to participate and volunteer, the latest news, events and newsletters, photo gallery, future events, map of the area, names of your committee members and links to Greensand Trust and South Beds.

Please visit www.knollswood.com and let us know your thoughts. We have a section for comments.

Trees:

The woods are now over 165 years old and some of the trees are beginning to show their age. Unfortunately, over the past four months we have lost: 3 Redwoods, 1 Oak and 4 Beech trees. Together with the Greensand Trust, we will be replanting 3 Redwoods and 4 Beech trees. We will pay for these, and hope that South Beds District Council will also contribute.

Knolls Wood Work Party Sunday 10th February 11am-3am

The Greensand Trust and the Friends of Knolls Wood have organised another work party on the 10th February and we'd like your help around the wood. We've got some large beech and redwood trees to plant and some scrub and path clearance to do. You can join us for all or part of the day. Meet outside 55 Redwood Glade, at 11am.

For any further information please contact John Creasey on 01525 237760 or john.creasey@greensandtrust.org Other News:



A question?

Is anyone able to identify this young bird? It is believed to have been nesting locally and knocked itself out on a window. A committee member has looked after it until it recovered fully.

Bullfinches in Knolls Wood



I think you're probably more likely (now there's a confident start) to see bullfinches in your garden rather than in the wood itself. They certainly frequent our bird feeders, especially in winter, but they can be seen throughout the year, mostly in pairs. They're about 15cm long and fairly plump, with a chunky, typically finchy, sort of bill, a black cap, grey wings, white rump and black tail. The male (see picture) is particularly handsome, with bright pink lower face and breast, whilst the female is much more beige. They are pretty quiet, not calling or singing much, and doing it quietly when they do – I don't think I've ever actually heard one (not knowingly, anyway).

They have had a bad reputation because of their eating habits – their main food is tree buds and they are inclined to give a tree (not to say, an orchard) quite a working-over once they've started.

However, this is not nearly the problem it once was, if only because they have seriously declined in numbers in recent years, probably due to changes in agricultural practices. As one of the most colourful birds around the wood, long may they thrive here!

Our constitution:

Following your opinions, as expressed at our last AGM, the committee members are in the process of updating the original constitution which was drawn up in up in May 1987. As part of this process we are looking into the possibility of registering as a “**Charity**”, with all its associated benefits.

Committee Members Leaving:

We are very sorry to lose Carol and Robin Banks, who are leaving Redwood Glade and moving to pastures new. We thank Carol and Robin for all their effort and contributions. They will be greatly missed.

Other Upcoming Events

Some more dates for your diary:

- 3rd June 2008, 8pm Friends of Knolls Wood AGM at Stockgrove Country Park
- 22nd June 2008, 11am-3pm Knolls Wood Work Party
- 14th September 2008, 2pm-4pm Knolls Wood Fun Day
- 16th November 2008, 11am-3pm Knolls Wood Work Party

For further details please read future newsletters nearer the time, or visit our website at:

www.knollswood.com