

Friends of Knolls Wood

Newsletter

partnership
action
The Greensand Trust

SPRING / SUMMER 2010 - Greetings from your committee members

FOKW AGM: 8 p.m. Wednesday June 9th 2010, Stockgrove Park

We cordially invite you to our AGM. This year's meeting will be held at 8pm on Wednesday June 9th in the restaurant at Stockgrove Park. At 8pm, before the Chairman's presentation and the election of the new committee, Mr Jon Balaam, Director of Development of The Greensand Trust, will be giving a talk about the plans for Rushmere entitled "**A Country Park for the Future – Progress and Future Plans for the Rushmere Estate**". If you are curious to know more about what is going on behind those huge gates at Rushmere, then this is an ideal opportunity to hear it from the horse's mouth. Jon is at the heart of the developments at Rushmere and he has told us that the timing of our AGM is good in terms of their master planning process, so he is looking forward to hearing your views and having an input from all of us. We look forward to seeing you on the evening. As always, refreshments will be served.

If you are unable to come, but would like to contact us, or help in any way, please make contact via our web site: www.knollswood.com Just click on the Contacts tab to register your interest.

Spring 2010 Work Party

The first scheduled work party of 2010 was due to have taken place on the morning of Sunday 28 February but, as the day dawned it was apparent that the very wet weather was going to be quite challenging for the planned activities and, whilst there were willing participants, we decided to postpone things to another day.



The rearranged date was 12 March and happily the weather was much more conducive to tree planting (see photos) which was to be one of the main endeavours of the day. John Creasey of The Greensand Trust had procured a selection of trees for us, paid for from our funds, including Scots Pine and Redwoods and we set about locating potential sites for them. Once these were agreed on, we split up and put the trees in places

where, all things being satisfactory, they will remain for the next several decades and beyond; a legacy of your association and ensuring some continuity when existing mature trees succumb to old age. As well as planting new trees we also managed to collect and dispose of a large quantity of discarded glass spirit bottles. After a good morning's work we reconvened outside the house of two of our volunteers who very kindly provided refreshments for us and we enjoyed some early Spring sunshine; quite a contrast to the weather of the earlier aborted date. It was noted that March rather than February might be preferable for future work parties!



Dunnocks around Knolls Wood



Photo - Wikipedia

In appearance, the Dunnock is not the most spectacular bird around. It's about the size of a house sparrow (indeed, a common alternative name for it is 'hedge sparrow'). It has a grey head, with the rest of its plumage being a streaky mixture of brown, grey, buff and black. At any time of the year you may see it foraging on the ground, underneath your bird feeder, for example, eating the spillage from the feeder, or any insects it can find, nervously flicking its wings. It nests low down as well, in bushes or conifers. It has a pleasant thin, high-pitched song, but that is rather quiet and easy to miss. All in all, it doesn't exactly push itself forward, mostly.

Here's the thing, though - it has an amazing sex life. The pairing arrangements are extremely diverse; one male with two females, two males with one female, several males with several females, pretty well anything goes! They would appear to mate more frequently than any other small bird. The actual mating practices could not possibly be reported in this newsletter.

Dates for your 2010 Diary:

9th June	Annual General Meeting	8 p.m. Stockgrove Park Restaurant
27th June	Working Party / BBQ	11 a.m. Redwood Glade entrance
12th September	Children's Event	2 p.m. to 4 p.m. next to 55 Redwood Glade
14th November	Working Party	11 a.m. Redwood Glade entrance

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.