

Friends of Knolls Wood

Newsletter



SUMMER 2008 - Greetings from your committee.

FoKW AGM - Tuesday 3rd June at 8:00pm at Stockgrove Country Park

All members are warmly invited to the Friends of Knolls Wood AGM, which will take place on Tuesday June 3rd at 8pm in the restaurant at Stockgrove Park. The election of the 2008 -2009 Committee will be followed by a talk by Stephen Coleman, Historic Environment Officer at County Hall, Bedford. The title of his talk will be "Knolls Wood and its surrounds: 4000 years of heathland use, archaeology and history". Please come along and let us know your thoughts about how best to maintain and preserve our very special wood. In view of current plans to extend housing in our town, it is particularly important that we look after our green space and your views are vital. Refreshments will be served.

Work Party Sunday 10th February

Another important work party took place in February with the planting of more trees in the wood. This time four Beech trees were planted along Beech Avenue and three Redwoods were planted in various places around the wood, all to replace trees that had been taken down. We also found time for some bramble clearance in the Snowdrop Glade. A big thank you to all who turned out to make this day a success!



Other Upcoming Events

- 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, or visit our website; www.knollswood.com

Our woods : We think they are worth preserving!

Have you heard the sound of Woodpeckers and Cuckoos? Has anyone else seen any rare birds or wildlife? We had a Hoopoe (*Upupa Epops* in Latin) taking a drink from our pond. Did you see the full glory of the Bluebells in the woods? Why not look at the photos out on our web site; www.knollswood.com?



Siskins around Knolls Wood

For over three months from late December until early April, our garden in Copper Beech Way was invaded by a flock of up to twenty Siskins (see photo of two on our feeder). These are very pretty, small (12 cm), streaky, yellow-green and grey Finches, the males having a black crown. They have a pleasant twittering



song which the choir of twenty raises to a considerable volume. When they arrived, they went for the Nyjer seed first (and splattered it over the ground around the feeders), then, like all the other birds, they went for the sunflower hearts and regularly decimated them. Only a band of about six intrepid Chaffinches seemed to compete directly with the Siskins, most of the other birds making themselves scarce until the interlopers temporarily moved away from the feeders.

And all of a sudden, as if they had received confirmation that the local RSPB garden bird watch period was over, the Siskins were gone. Why? Well, although there is a permanent population of Siskins in Britain, it seems that this year there has also been a large Winter influx from Scandinavia, where the crop of pinecones, a major part of their diet, has been poor. It looks as if they fed themselves up wherever they could and then scooted back to Scandinavia. We may be lucky and see a few from now on, but, more likely, we won't see any more until next Winter.

P.S. Seen any activity in the nest boxes around the wood? At various times, I've seen Blue Tits in and around at least three. Can't guarantee that they'll all result in young ones, but fingers are crossed.

www.knollswood.com