



SPRING 2016 - Greetings from your Committee Members

Dates for your Diary:

**Next Volunteer Session: Sunday 19 June, Meet at Sandy Lane Noticeboard, 10:00 hrs
Wednesday 6 July, FoKW Annual General Meeting, Rushmere Park, 20:00 hrs**

Volunteer Tasks – from Gary Peach our Greensand Ranger

Since I took over from Bob Holland as Knolls Wood Ranger we have hand pulled Sycamore and Holly saplings, cleared / widened paths and removed and chipped some of the larger Holly and Sycamore to open up the canopy and increase light levels. While this is hard work, the results can be seen immediately.

Once a year a Children's Event takes place (the last couple of years this has occurred in the October half term) and whilst the weather gods don't like to play ball, turn out has always been good and the children have enjoyed themselves. This event always has good volunteer support and in recent years has included 'build a bug' workshops, building bird boxes and a nature trail set up in the wood for the children (with parents) to go out and explore.



The summer session usually entails raking off the freshly cut grass from the glades and footpaths. This discourages nettles and brambles from regrowing so viciously and encourages the grass to get a foothold. In the medium term this will encourage wildflowers to grow and promote the biodiversity of the site.

Love our woods? Come and help them look great

Each year we organise four sessions to help maintain the woods and create a diverse environment for wildlife. To date, only a few core people have come forward to help and this has limited the amount of work we can do. Can you spare a few hours and make a difference? If you can, come and join the team.

We meet at 10am by the Sandy Lane notice board and are finished by 1pm. If you have some spare time on your hands and fancy some fresh air and exercise you would be made most welcome. Gary provides all the tools and during the summer session will mow nettles and weeds. Our team will then rake and clear. From September through to February we will clear rampant holly and clean out bird boxes.

Reminders for the Volunteer Sessions are included on our notice boards. **The three remaining sessions for 2016 are: Sunday 19 June, Sunday 11 September and Sunday 20 November**

31 January 2016 - Volunteer Session

The volunteers all worked hard this morning, but it was pretty wet and horrid. We cleared the path leading from Redwood Glade to Sandy Lane as well as lots of holly from around young monkey puzzle trees which were getting overwhelmed. Volunteers included: Gary from Greensand Trust, committee members Clive (and his two sons), Jack, Roger and Sylvia, together with Claire, Frankie and Boris the dog!



Facebook

Earlier this year we created a Facebook page for the woods. Facebook is a perfect tool for sharing how the woods change each week, showing the animals that live there and helping people understand what we do to maintain the site. The page also helps promote the Knolls Wood website.

Local people living near the woods and various visitors have taken photographs and posted them on the page. We also have a video of Archie the Dog exercising himself with a ball!

We have 49 'likes' and will continue to work each week to increase interest in the page. 72% of the people currently liking the page are women, 42 live in Leighton Buzzard, 14 in MK and 6 in Australia.

Please help spread the word about the page by asking friends and family to 'like' it. The page can be found at: <https://www.facebook.com/knollswood/>

Garden Waste

Fly tipping is an intermittent problem in Knolls Wood. When thinking of fly tipping the image that springs to mind is of a busted fridge or a dumped mattress, but fly tipping includes the dumping of garden waste. This has been noticed a number of times recently along Monkey Puzzle Avenue. Some people may argue "it'll rot down..." and "we live in the woods, what's the difference?" Well, the different nutrient levels can have a negative effect on the woodland flora and in severe cases can kill off species. If caught, an offender can be given a large fine (up to 4 figures). **If anyone sees anything being tipped please report it.**

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