



AUTUMN
2005



Tongham Wood Improvement Group

NEWSLETTER



GO WILD IN SEPTEMBER!

This special month-long promotion, co-ordinated by the Blackwater Valley Countryside Partnership and supported by more than 15 volunteer groups in the Valley, is the ideal way of getting to know your local wildlife area and conservation group.

Come along to TWIG's next Sunday conservation task and "have a go" or just chat and find out what's going on.

By getting involved you can:

- ✦ Learn about your local wildlife area
- ✦ Help your local wildlife
- ✦ Get some exercise
- ✦ Meet new people

In fact you may enjoy it so much that you decide to become a countryside volunteer!

Tongham Community Wood's Go Wild! Task

Sunday 18th September, 10.30am-3.30pm.

Come and cut back willow, bash bramble and help with the maintenance of the pond.

Meet at site entrance off Garbetts Way.

Any questions? Call Tony Anderson on 01252 331353.

DOG LITTER BINS – 1 DOWN, 2 TO GO

Many users of Tongham Wood have noticed a bright red dog litter bin that has been gracing the Blenheim Close entrance to the Wood since early August. Many thanks to Guildford Borough Council – that's one down and two more to go! The two remaining bins are to be placed outside the main gates, at the end of The Moors and near the Garbetts Way garages. We are hoping that Guildford Borough Council, who will be emptying and maintaining the bins, will expedite their arrival.

In the meantime, please remember that dog litter can be a health hazard, especially to children playing in the wood. We would ask dog owners to ***always pick up litter deposited on the paths*** and dispose of it appropriately.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

In compliance with the constitution of Tongham Wood Improvement Group, an Annual General Meeting shall be held on Thursday 3rd November 2005, at 8.00 pm in Tongham Village Hall, The Street, Tongham.

This meeting is open to the public.

THIS SEASON IN THE WOOD

TONGHAM ORCHARD IN FULL FRUIT

The old orchard is full of fruit! Late summer and autumn are seasons of harvest and plenty, and Nature's Bounty is available in Tongham Community Wood, to be enjoyed by the entire community.

Blackberries abound alongside the paths and ditches. But watch out for those thorns! Plums have ripened on the trees and can be picked up from the ground. Elderberries cluster on the elders, their branches drooping from the weight. The old apple trees are laden with fruit that shall soon be ready to eat.

What can be done with all this fruit? Pies, jams, jellies, pastries, sauces, elderberry wine and more! Just remember to take only what you can use yourself, and leave some for other members of Tongham's community to enjoy.

WHO USES THE WOOD?

In early June, Tongham Wood Improvement Group carried out its annual Wood Users Survey to see who is taking advantage of Tongham Community Wood, how and why. This year's results were very encouraging. Here are some highlights of the people surveyed:

Who? 83% Dog walkers, 17% Cyclists, including many families with children

When? Nearly three quarters of people surveyed use the wood daily

How long? Almost half of respondents took a quick walk around the wood (about a half hour), while nearly one quarter of respondents had a more leisurely walk (up to an hour)

What would you change? Clean up dog litter and install more benches

GO WILD! IN SEPTEMBER INFORMATION DAY

As part of the Blackwater Valley Countryside Partnership's month-long Go Wild! promotion, TWIG is holding an Information Day event on **Saturday 17th September, from 10.00 am to 2.00 pm** in front of The White Hart Pub on the corner of The Street and Grange Road, Tongham.

Come along and try your hand at winning one of the many prizes donated by local Tongham businesses, including a FREE shampoo, cut and blow dry at Marcello Argento's and one of two luscious cakes donated by Tongham Bakery. And for only 10p a try, see if you can win a prize in the Lollipop Tree!

NATURE QUIZ - WIN A PRIZE!

These trees and leaves can be seen in Tongham Community Wood. Can you match the trees to their leaves? Just draw a line from the tree to the leaf that grows on it. To enter a drawing to win a prize, fill in the form underneath the pictures and drop this page in the urn at Tongham Post Office, The Street, Tongham, by 31 October 2005.



Ash Tree



Hawthorn



Oak



Silver Birch



Nature Quiz Response Form

No purchase necessary. Under 18's must have signature of parent or guardian. Winner will be notified by mail.

Name: _____

under 18, signature of parent or guardian :

Address: _____

Tel: _____

E-mail: _____

- I would like to volunteer
- Please add me to your e-mail list
- I want to sponsor a tree!

**Please complete the above and post in the urn at
Tongham Post Office, The Street, Tongham,
by 31 October 2005.**

(Your name and address will be stored on our computer database mailing list. It will not be used for any other purposes other than to send directly to you, news regarding the Tongham Wood Improvement Group and its activities.)

MEMORIES OF A FRUIT FARM LABOURER

by Richard Taylor, former Tongham resident

My father started work for Sam Gillians in the mid 1930s. I believe there were quite a few old apple, plum and pear trees in the orchard when Gillians took over but a lot were removed and replanted with newer, better varieties. Later, six large greenhouses were built to diversify from just fruit production by growing tomatoes, lettuce, bedding plants, vegetables, chrysanthemums, etc.

The boundaries of the fruit farm were the railway bridge hill, the former main rail line, the gas works rail line, Tongham nurseries field, the houses on The Moors, The Cricketers Pub, and Houses in Oxenden Road including Sturt's the Butchers.

The total acreage was said to be just over twelve acres with what was called One Acre, where vegetables were grown to the north of the greenhouses behind a long, tall conifer hedge. The main entrance was off The Street with rear access to The Moors but this was seldom used.

Nobody seemed to know who owned the copse in between the main rail line and the gas works line, it was always assumed it belonged to the Gas Works. Mr Baker and his son Graham often went shooting rabbits on this Gas Works land. Soon after the Bakers and Mr Hislop bought the Farm off the Gillians, my family moved from Ash to live in a tied cottage on the Fruit Farm, in about 1949, by which time the Bakers had built a new house on the left, halfway down the main entrance drive.

Another couple lived in the other tied cottage and there were four permanent staff and several part time workers employed during the 1950s.

This was the decade when the farm was busiest; pigs, geese, turkeys and chicken were all bred. Tomatoes, lettuce, bedding plants, etc. were delivered daily to various wholesalers and retail outlets in Aldershot and Farnham as well as being sold in the Farm Shop/Packing Shed. The Tin Hut (The Chapel) was eventually converted into a Farm Shop near the main entrance.

FUTURE SUNDAY WOODLAND TASKS

Want to lend a hand, or just see what it's all about? Come along anytime from 10.30 am to 2pm. Meeting point is at the Main Gate off of Garbett's Way; after 10.30 you can find us working in various places in the Wood.

<u>Month</u>	<u>Date</u>
September	18
October	16
November	20
December	18