



Winter
2007

Tongham Wood Improvement Group

NEWSLETTER



GRANT TO PLANT NEW COPPICE AREA

Thanks to a grant from the Woodland Trust, a new coppice area has been planted along the main path around Tongham Wood. Three of the most commonly coppiced species – Hornbeam, Sweet Chestnut and English Oak – have been planted to show how woodlands were managed in the past.



Coppicing is a method where trees are allowed to grow on an 8-10 year rotation and then are cut back almost to ground level. This encourages the growth of many new shoots. After another few years the new stems are cut back again, producing long, straight poles of uniform size and shape. These can be used for many purposes, from hurdle to furniture making and from charcoal burning to firewood.

FOILED BY GRAVITY

During the Christmas holidays, users of Tongham Community Wood were surprised to note that the disabled picnic bench along the main path was turned around. Upon closer inspection, it appeared that certain individuals had actually sawn through the pipes securing the table and bench to the ground and tried to make off with it. Luckily for the wood and its users, this deliberate attempt to remove the bench was foiled by... its sheer weight!

Vigilance will help to ensure that our community wood amenities are preserved for the use of all. Any suspicious behaviour or odd occurrences in the wood such as dirt bikes, fly tipping, fires and theft should be reported to Tongham's Community Safety warden, Lesley Clarke, on 07769 642053 or by email to ClarkeL@guildford.gov.uk.

WORD SEARCH

Find the names of 10 species of trees growing in Tongham Wood. Can you find all of them? Look for Ash, Beech, Cherry, Chestnut, Hawthorn, Hazel, Hornbeam, Maple, Oak and Willow. Solution on page 2.

S	L	A	E	T	G	Y	H	I	C
U	R	B	F	E	T	X	U	Q	H
K	X	E	C	H	E	R	R	Y	E
W	L	E	Z	A	H	M	O	A	S
O	E	C	O	W	D	T	N	E	T
L	A	H	D	T	I	M	E	N	N
L	U	K	T	H	S	A	G	O	U
I	L	S	T	O	F	P	Y	S	T
W	D	R	I	R	T	L	A	Y	O
E	H	O	R	N	B	E	A	M	S

HOW'S YOUR CARBON FOOTPRINT?

According to www.carbonfootprint.com, "Carbon Footprint is a measure of the impact human activities have on the environment in terms of the amount of green house gases produced... our everyday actions consume energy and produce carbon dioxide emissions, e.g. taking holiday flights, driving our cars, heating or cooling our homes.

"Carbon Offsetting is a way of compensating for the emissions produced with an equivalent carbon dioxide saving." You can easily offset your Carbon Footprint by reducing energy consumption and by improving the air we breathe through planting trees. With New Year's resolutions still fresh in our minds, why not think about getting fit and offsetting your carbon footprint by volunteering in the wood or sponsoring a tree?

FUTURE SUNDAY WOODLAND TASKS

February	18
March	18
April	15

Volunteers meet at 10.30 a.m. at the Garbetts Way entrance to Tongham Community Wood (by the garages at Maitlands Close) and run until about 2 p.m. Even if you can only spare a half hour, come and meet the group in the woods anytime from 10.30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Your help will always be appreciated!

THIS SEASON IN THE WOOD



GREAT SPOTTING

A pair of greater spotted woodpeckers can be spotted in the Ancient Wood (near the Garbetts Way entrance). The pair of 9-inch, black-white-and-red birds nested and raised their young last spring and can often be heard pecking on tree trunks with a repeated rat-a-tat-tat.

SPOT THE FIRST FLOWERS

This winter is certainly a surprise: warm weather, wind storms and finally a little snow! Gnats and other small flying insects are being spotted in the wood while birds are stepping up their activity and song in preparation for nest-building. Buds can even be seen on the fruit trees in the orchard, and soon the first daffodils and bluebells will peep out from beneath the brown covering of leaves and branches. Keep a look out for the first flowers to bloom in Tongham Wood and send your report back to our website: www.tonghamwood.org.uk.

PATH REFURBISHMENT

Good news for woods users: actions are currently in place to obtain funding to refurbish the main path around the wood. TWIG hopes to be able to resurface the entire path this spring to alleviate the mud and make the path useable for wheelchairs, pushchairs and prams.

PLAQUE REPLACEMENT

Has your plaque gone missing or been damaged? Missing and/or damaged plaques on sponsored trees in the orchard will be replaced this spring. Please contact us if you would like to help! twig@tonghamwood.org.uk

CAN YOU LEND US A WOOD CHIPPER?

January's wind storm caused quite a bit of damage to the trees in Tongham Wood. A lot of branches and some willow saplings cut down at previous tasks need to be chipped into mulch that will be spread along the paths.

If you are a landscape professional and have a heavy-duty wood chipper that you could lend to Tongham Wood Improvement Group on a Sunday, please contact Tony Anderson at Blackwater Valley Countryside Partnership on 01252 331353 or send an email to twig@tonghamwood.org.uk.

WORD SEARCH SOLUTION

S	L	A	E	T	G	Y	H	I	C
U	R	B	F	E	T	X	U	Q	H
K	X	E	C	H	E	R	R	Y	E
W	L	E	Z	A	H	M	O	A	S
O	E	C	O	W	D	T	N	E	T
L	A	H	D	T	I	M	E	N	N
L	U	K	T	H	S	A	G	O	U
I	L	S	T	O	F	P	Y	S	T
W	D	R	I	R	T	L	A	Y	O
E	H	O	R	N	B	E	A	M	S

HOW TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Tongham Community Wood is your wood to enjoy; if you are a local resident who can spare a few hours on a Sunday please contact us.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Tel: _____

E-mail: _____

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

Please complete the above and post to:-

Tongham Wood Improvement Group
 14 Blenheim Close, Tongham GU10 1BW
 or e-mail twig@tonghamwood.org.uk

(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.)