



TONGHAM ORCHARD REPLANTED

Seventeen volunteers gave up their Saturday on 15th January to plant 50 fruit trees in the old orchard. The project forms part of a long-term plan to regenerate Tongham Community Wood into an area for leisure and recreation to be enjoyed by the entire community.

Included in the 50 trees are varieties of apple carefully selected to match the road names in the surrounding housing estate, including 'Blenheim Orange', 'Rosemary Russet' and 'Ellison's Orange'. As well as the apple trees, pear, cherry, plum and damson trees were also planted.

Funding for the orchard has been awarded by the Hanson Environment Fund, set up by Hanson in 1997 using the landfill tax money accumulated by this building materials company. This has been match funded by Blackwater Valley Countryside Partnership, which promotes community action in conservation and recreation and protects the Blackwater Valley for the enjoyment and well being of the whole community.



Volunteers plant one of the first young trees in the old Orchard



TREE CUTTING

For the health and safety of all users, several trees and dead branches hanging over paths or fences have been cut down and are now stacked in various parts of the Wood. These stacks provide habitat and hiding places for woodland wildlife such as squirrels and hedgehogs.

NATURE QUIZ

Below are a few examples of the wildlife seen in Tongham Community Wood. Can you name them? Answers on page 2.



a. _____



b. _____



c. _____



d. _____

DOG LITTER BINS ORDERED

Users of Tongham Wood will be pleased to hear that three dog litter bins have been ordered by Guildford Borough Council. Bins will be placed outside the three entrances to Tongham Community Wood (The Moors, Blenheim Close, and Garbetts Way) and will be emptied and maintained by GBC.

In the meantime, please remember that plastic bags are not biodegradable and that bagged dog litter should be removed from the wood and disposed of appropriately.

TOOLS GRANTS

Many thanks to Tongham Parish Council and to Guildford Borough Council for granting funds to Tongham Wood Improvement Group for the purchase of tools to be used during our monthly conservation tasks.

TWIG members have recently attended courses to learn how to properly care for and use brush clearing tools such as bill hooks, pick axes and scythes as well as more traditional gardening-type tools.

BLUEBELLS AND WILDFLOWERS

During recent monthly tasks, volunteers have planted bluebell seeds and wildflowers. In addition to enhancing the beauty of the Wood, these plants and flowers will help maintain the ecosystem, providing habitat and food for its wild inhabitants as well as reducing erosion in the ditches near the A331.

The Bluebell Wood is near the Garbetts Way entrance. The Wildflower Meadow follows the main path and should attract lots of butterflies!

THERE'S MORE TO COME...

Future planned work:

- Children's play area and Bar-B-Q site
- Website
- Refurbishing the main path



TADPOLE WATCH!

Tadpoles have hatched in the ditches along the A331. Watch them as they grow and change into frogs!

COME AND SEE FOR YOURSELF

Entrances to Tongham Wood are located at the end of Garbett's Way, at the end of The Moors, and between Blenheim Close and Grieve Close. Grab the kids, the bikes and the dog and come for a stroll in your community's wood.

NATURE QUIZ ANSWERS

- a. squirrel
- b. great tit
- c. deer
- d. jay

STILL MORE TREES TO SPONSOR

Of the 50 fruit trees recently planted, many are still available for sponsoring. If you would like to commemorate a special event, a loved one or even ensure that you go down in local history yourself, please contact us and sponsor a tree.

HELP US LOOK AFTER THE WOOD

Please follow these simple byelaws:

- No fly tipping or rubbish dumping
- No dog fouling on the paths
- No unauthorised motor vehicles
- No unauthorised fires

MAY IS ENVIRONMENT MONTH

2005 is the Year of the Volunteer and May is Environment Month. According to the "Year of the Volunteer" website, "this is the month to get out and about volunteering in the fresh air, countryside and green spaces in your communities. Get involved in May's events and be inspired to improve the environment on your doorstep. It could be in your local park, a nature reserve or woods, but whatever you'll be doing you'll be making a real impact in helping conserve the environment."

JOIN IN THE YEAR OF THE VOLUNTEER

Volunteer help is always needed. It is your wood to enjoy! If you are a local resident who can spare a few hours on a Sunday please contact us.

FUTURE SUNDAY WOODLAND TASKS

Come along anytime from 10.30-2pm. 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>
May	15
June	19
July	17

If you can spare even a few hours...

Name: _____

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 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.)