



Spring
2006

Tongham Wood Improvement Group

NEWSLETTER



CHERRY TREE WALK

Tongham Wood Improvement Group has planted 16 cherry trees just inside the Moors entrance to Tongham Community Wood on Sunday 26th February as part of the ongoing regeneration of the woodland. The trees will provide a welcoming entrance into the wood with beautiful cherry blossom in Spring, and cherries are amongst the earliest fruit to ripen, therefore sought after by many species of birds such as bullfinches.

This activity is part of a six-month campaign called Action Earth, supported by the Environment Agency. The campaign is organised by the national charity Community Service Volunteers (CSV) and involves over 750 voluntary organisations, businesses and community groups that will be undertaking projects that are of immediate and lasting benefit to the environment.



Hard at work planting the Cherry Tree Walk

BAG IT AND BIN IT!

Recent improvements to Tongham Community Wood have been quite successful, as more and more dogs and their owners can be seen taking advantage of the wood and its beauty. Unfortunately, and despite the three bright red dog litter bins placed by Guildford Borough Council at the three entrances to Tongham Wood, increasing amounts of dog litter can be found on and very near the paths. Dog litter is a health hazard for everyone.

All dog owners are reminded to pick up after their dog and dispose of their litter in the bins provided.

LOCAL COMPANY SC JOHNSON DIG DEEP FOR TONGHAM COMMUNITY WOOD

Tongham Wood Improvement Group (TWIG) are bringing all season colour to the play area of Tongham Community Wood thanks to the help of local volunteers and to local Frimley-based company SC Johnson providing over £1,300 funding.

The generous donation from SC Johnson has financed two planting projects in the wood. The first was the Cherry Tree Walk (see left) and the second main project took place on Sunday 19th March with 'The Big Dig'. The conservation task lived up to its name with an astounding thirty-four volunteers turning up – three times more than normal. This included 17 volunteers from the fourth Farnham (Tongham) scouts, local residents and those from further afield. They planted 34 trees containing a mixture of field maple and three cherry varieties around the central play area.

TWIG is thrilled by the level of local support received for this project – both financial from local company SC Johnson, as well as volunteer hours from residents and in-kind support of equipment from Blackwater Valley Countryside Partnership. It is TWIG's most successful endeavour to date, and we want to thank all our supporters on that day.

The play area provides a safe open space in the wood for children to run around. The circular planting scheme will provide a colourful backdrop for all seasons, as well as attracting wildlife with the fruit and blossom from the trees.



34 Volunteers + 34 trees = 1 job well done!

TWIG WEBSITE LAUNCHED

Want to find out more about Tongham Community Wood and the activities of Tongham Wood Improvement Group? If you have internet access, just point your browser to www.tonghamwood.org.uk and take a virtual tour of the wood from your office or living room! Chock full of information, the website includes sections on the Wood itself, TWIG, local history, a superb map with pop up descriptions, News, Activities, Photos and there's even a Q&A section.

If you see any new or unusual wildlife (birds, animals, tadpoles, butterflies, deer, etc.), you can report your sightings online with a special submission form.

Tongham Community Wood is everyone's wood and this is everyone's website!

NATURE QUIZ

Below are a few actual photos of wildlife seen in Tongham Community Wood. Can you name them? Answers below. Hold the page to a mirror to read the backwards text!



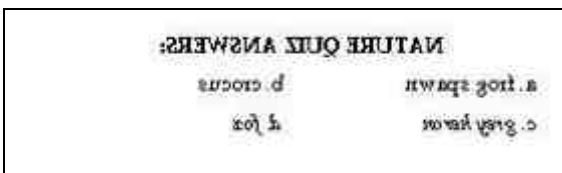
a. _____ b. _____



c. _____ d. _____

HELP US LOOK AFTER THE WOOD

Report any sightings of motor bikes, fires or improper use to Surrey Police on 0845 125 2222.



THIS SEASON IN THE WOOD

TADPOLES, BUTTERFLIES & BLOSSOMS

The clocks have sprung ahead an hour and Spring is in the air! The first blossoms can be seen in the Old Orchard and the masses of frog spawn in the ditches along the main path have finally "sprouted" into black clouds of tadpoles.

The first yellow Brimstone butterflies have been spotted flitting along various parts of the wood. More can be expected in the Butterfly Glade (see the map on the TWIG website for location) so watch out for them among the trees and plants as Spring advances.

Soon we shall see the glorious colours of apple, cherry and plum blossoms in the Old Orchard. Perhaps the new cherry trees planted along the Cherry Tree Walk and around the Children's Play Area will grace us with blossoms this year!

HOW TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Volunteer help is always needed to maintain Tongham Community Wood. 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 am to 2 pm)

| <u>Month</u> | <u>Date</u> |
|--------------|-------------|
| May | 21 |
| June | 18 |
| July | 16 |

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 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.)