



TONGHAM WOOD IMPROVEMENT GROUP

NEWSLETTER



GO WILD! IN SEPTEMBER

On **Sunday 19th September** there is the opportunity to discover your wood. Come along and help with a typical task in the morning or at any of the later times for the following events:

10.30am	Task: laying and lining wood path
1pm	Bar B Q by picnic bench
2pm	Guided walk around the wood
7pm	Bat walk

Meeting points: Garbett's Way entrance for Task and Bat walk. Picnic bench (middle of wood, on main path running by (hidden) A331 road) for Bar B Q and guided wood walk.

For the task you only need sturdy shoes and clothes which can get dirty. Gloves and equipment are provided.

The Bar B Q will fill you up ready for a guided walk on the history and wildlife of the wood. See a different wood in the early evening with a guided bat walk.

Just turn up from 10.30 onwards.

A BRIEF INTRODUCTION



Tongham Wood is a small area of woodland immediately adjacent to a housing estate. It remained neglected and was used for dumping and fly tipping for many years.

Blackwater Valley Countryside Partnership (BCVP) obtained grants from the Forestry Commission and Surrey County Council, with support from Guildford Borough Council & Tongham Parish Council.

A small section of the woodland has been identified as semi natural secondary woodland.

Formerly part of a larger wooded area, now only a small compartment of woodland still remains. This can be traced back to the early 1800s.

A BIT OF HISTORY

The lord of the manor of Tongham leased the land for many years to a Mr Hereit.

In the early 1870s the land was compulsory purchased for a railway line to go through.

Coppicing had taken place within the woodland for many years but stopped with the onset of war. The wood appears not to have been managed since then. The area to the north of the woodland has remnants of an old orchard with a scrub area further on.

Again land was compulsory purchased for the Blackwater Valley Road scheme, with planting being undertaken either side of the old woodland and near the old orchard in 1994 after the road was built. This was to alleviate the impact of the road and enhance the landscape of the area.

Very little was done to the site, until BVCP took over the management in 2000.

HELP! WHO IS Ms HIDE?

We are seeking any knowledge surrounding the history of Tongham Wood. We have heard of a Ms Hide who donated the wood to the community – do you know of her? Do you know of the history of the old orchard? Please contact us and let us know any relevant history.

WHY ALL THE FUSS?

The woodland has great potential as a community resource for education and recreation.

It is a real asset for the village. As well as being home to a host of wildlife and great for dog walkers, children and an escape from it all, it has the potential to increase property value and prevent further built-up developments. And it dampens that A331 road noise!

Working with Tongham Wood Improvement Group gives you the opportunity to meet those who live around you, make Tongham a better place and gives you a say in what you want to see in your wood.

THE STORY SO FAR...

Volunteers have removed:

- 47 bags of litter
- 3 trailer loads of dumped rubbish
- 9 twelve cubic metre skips of waste rubbish, and
- 28 concrete posts.

Also adding preventative measures to stop fly-tipping and dumping

Implementation of proposals put forward at a public consultation in 2002:

- On-going improvement to wildlife habitats and new planting
- Making it safe for the public by improving public / disabled access
- Introducing new pathways and seating
- Creating a new butterfly glade and two new ponds
- Improving the amenity of the wood for the local community to enjoy.

COME AND SEE FOR YOURSELF

Main entrances to Tongham Wood are located at the end of Garbett's Way and The Moors.

THERE'S MORE TO COME...

Future planned work:

- Renovating the old orchard.
- Creating wildflower meadows.
- Children's play area and Bar-B-Q site.
- Creating a bluebell wood.
- Website.

HOW TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Volunteer help is desperately 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.

SPONSOR A TREE

We are bringing the old orchard back to life with new apple, pear, plum and cherry trees. You can sponsor a tree for £20 and commemorate it with a plaque for an extra £5 in memory of a loved one or in celebration of an anniversary. Contact us below for more details.

LOOK AFTER THE WOOD

Follow the byelaws:

- **No fly tipping/rubbish dumping**
- **No dog fouling**
- **No unauthorised motor vehicles**
- **No unauthorised fires**

FUTURE SUNDAY WOODLAND TASKS

(Come along anytime from 10.30-2pm)

<u>Month</u>	<u>Date</u>
October	17
November	21
December	12

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 send to:-

Tongham Wood Improvement Group c/o
Blackwater Valley Countryside Partnership
Ash Lock Cottage,
Government Road,
Aldershot,

Hampshire, GU11 2PS or, e-mail: Tony Anderson,
w.tony.anderson@hants.gov.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 Woodland Improvement Group)