



Winter
2005

Tongham Wood Improvement Group

NEWSLETTER



DOG LITTER BINS CATCHING ON

Many thanks to Guildford Borough Council and Tongham Parish Council for ordering, setting up and maintaining the three bright red dog litter bins now adorning Tongham Community Wood. The bins are located at the three entrances to the Wood: Blenheim Close, The Moors and Garbetts Way. **All dog owners are encouraged to pick up after their dog and dispose of their litter in these bins.**

We are pleased to note that the bins are being used regularly and that there is less dog litter on the paths through Tongham Wood. Dog litter covered with leaves is just a trap for an unsuspecting walker, so please do pick it up!

FIRST OPEN INFORMATION DAY

On Saturday 17th September TWIG held their first open information day and tombola outside the White Hart pub to raise awareness of their activities, attract new volunteers and raise money to further their work. Thanks to the generosity of local businesses and villagers TWIG managed to raise a total of £71.60.

NEW DESIRE PATH

Since September, users of the wood have been able to follow a new “desire path” through the oldest part of Tongham Wood, called “The Ancient Wood”. The new path “follows your heart’s desire” – hence the name “desire path.”

The new path starts near the Garbetts Way entrance and goes off to the left where it joins the path that comes down the steps towards the play area and the butterfly meadow.

All materials used were recycled from recent health and safety tree felling and previous brush cutting and chipping activities. The path is lined with tree trunks from the Ancient Wood and covered in chipped mulch from other parts of the wood.

BRIDGING THE GAP

At their November task, thirteen volunteers from Tongham Wood Improvement Group bridged the gap between the Ancient Wood and the new by building a wooden bridge over a ditch to link together two paths, improve access and enhance the growing network of walks through the wood.



Plans for the bridge were drawn up by TWIG volunteers and built on site to their own specifications with materials supplied by the Blackwater Valley Countryside Partnership.

Our picture above shows TWIG volunteers cutting the ribbon to officially inaugurate the new wooden bridge built on 20th November 2005.

NATURE QUIZ

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



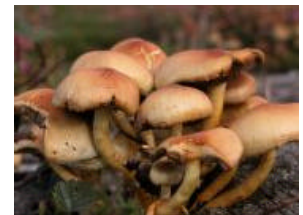
a. _____



b. _____



c. _____



d. _____

❄ ❄ **HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO ALL** ❄ ❄

A BRANCH LINE IN THE WOODS

If you enter Tongham Wood at the Garbetts Way entrance by the flats, you are actually looking straight down the old London and South Western Railway line between Guildford and Alton! This was later extended via what is now the Watercress Line to Alresford and on to join the line to Southampton. Passenger services ran through Tongham until 1937, although goods traffic continued through the fifties. If you are keen-eyed you may spot some of the old rail preserved within the path.

In the other direction the railway ran to Ash Green, and this has been transformed into a delightful footpath near the end of which is still the old Ash Green Station (now a private house). On other paths in Tongham Wood and over the BVR near Tongham Lake, you are following the track of the branch line which ran from the old Tongham station to Aldershot Gas Works. This ran until 1960 and transported coal to the works. Again the keen-eyed can still spot clues to its past.

If you want to find out more about the Railways of Tongham, there is a great booklet by Peter Harding written in 1994 that contains lots of information and some wonderfully nostalgic pictures. It is available online at www.dinnages.org.uk and elsewhere for less than a fiver.

THIS SEASON IN THE WOOD

DEER, FROST AND SPIDER WEBS

As we enter what is being called the coldest winter since the sixties, Tongham Wood is looking like a fairyland of frost. Blades of grass, leaves and flowers are outlined in lace and wearing a frosty overcoat. On a cold, sunny morning, spider's webs stand out in the sunlight with all of their threads encased in ice.

Birds and animals seek out food that is becoming harder and harder to obtain. Deer can be seen bounding out of the trees across the paths as they look for food and shelter. The squirrels scratch the mulch on the paths looking for nuts to eat and sticks and leaves to build their drays in the trees.

Winter is a wonderful time in Tongham Community Wood, so grab the friends and family, go out there and have a look!

❄ ❄ **HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO ALL** ❄ ❄

STAMP OUT FLY TIPPING

It is quite unfortunate to report that plastic bin liners filled with rubbish and garden waste are regularly being thrown over the fence behind the Garbetts Way/Maitland's Close garages into the wood. Dumping of rubbish encourages rats. Tongham Community Wood is our community's woodland to share and enjoy; it is not an amenity tip and should not be used as one. Should you see anyone fly tipping anywhere in Tongham Community Wood, please report it to the Cleansing Hotline on 01483 44 44 99 or to our Community Safety Warden, Lesley Clarke on 07769 642053 or by sending an email to ClarkeL@guildford.gov.uk.

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>
December	18
January	22
February	19

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.)

NATURE QUIZ ANSWERS:

- | | |
|--------------|---------------------|
| a. fox | b. green woodpecker |
| c. chaffinch | d. honey fungus |