Waverley BOROUGH COUNCIL

WAVERLEY Action for Wildlife

Willow Woods Newsletter

September 2011

Earlier in the year Northbourne Action Group was successful with their application to the Big Lottery Fund Community Wildlife programme for a grant towards improving the woodland for local people and local wildlife.

Over the years the woodland has had various names. During an activity session that was held in April local children chose the name Willow Woods, after the willows along the stream.

Community Day

In August, Waverley Borough Council, Northbourne Action Group, Surrey Wildlife Trust and Southern Housing organised a Community Day. The Chainsaw Pirates made two impressive entrance sculptures at the main access points, using oak trees from the woods.

New entrance from Long Gore

Other activities enjoyed by the children were face painting, as well as making badges and bird feeders. Throughout the day the Northbourne Action Group provided much needed refreshments for everyone.

Woodland Management

This month we will be carrying out some major woodland management. Due to a lack of management in the past the trees have suffered, especially the Scots pine which have grown to be leggy and have very poorly developed crowns. To remedy this situation the pines will be removed to create space for the oaks and also for young trees and shrubs to grow. This will create a woodland structure which will be more beneficial to wildlife. Some tree planting may also take place.

Chipper in action

The pines will be felled and stacked and then the entire tree will be chipped into the back of large lorries. This woodchip will be taken to fuel the renewable energy power station in Slough.

The work should take around 8 days and most of the paths through the woods will be closed whilst they are working. The chipping will take about 3 days and will be noisy. I apologise in advance for any inconvenience this may cause. For your own safety please follow the advice of site notices.

Improving Access

The first work that took place was the resurfacing of the much used path between Long Gore and Northbourne. The newly surfaced Tarmac path now makes the walk through the woods much easier for everyone.

Garden Waste

Since work began in the woods last year three skips of illegally dumped household and garden rubbish have been removed from the woods.

The good news is that there have been very few incidences of dumping since the clean up. However, some people are still continuing to dump garden waste. This is not good for the woodland as it adds nutrients to the ground and can introduce invasive garden plants. Dumping of any rubbish, including garden waste, is regarded as fly tipping, which is illegal and offenders can be fined. Please help look after Willow Woods by disposing of garden waste properly and by reporting any incidences of dumping to the Ranger.

Recently dumped garden waste

Contact waste@waverley.gov.uk
or phone on 01484 523524 for further information on how to dispose of your garden waste properly.

How You Can Get Involved

There are a number of ways you can help look after Willow Woods. If you enjoy getting your hands dirty you can come along to tasks held at the weekends. These are suitable for everyone and are great fun for children. Alternatively, if you use the woods to walk the dog, just keep an eye out and report anything that concerns you to the Ranger.

All tasks start at 10am from the main Long Gore entrance to Willow Woods. You do not need any experience to join in with the tasks, just a willingness to help improve the woods. Tools and gloves will be provided and most importantly so will refreshments!

Task dates for this winter are as follows:

Sunday 30th October – bulb planting
Sunday 29th January – bramble clearance
Sunday 26th February – bramble clearance

Who To Contact

For further information on volunteering or any other queries about the management of Willow Woods please contact the Countryside Ranger for the area Sarah Henderson on 01483 423081 or email sarah.henderson@waverley.gov.uk.