



# Friends of Horton Country Park

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Minutes

For the meeting held on the 02/12/2008

## Present:

Alan and Anne Cheshire, Mo and Pam Pearcey, Laurence Coley (Membership Secretary), Kate Cochrane, Valerie Smith, Terry Summerfield (Treasurer), Sarah Clift, Eileen Tomlin.

## Apologies:

Tony Gibb, Brenda Hammond-Gibb, Brendan Kilby (Chairman), Friend of Eileen's (sorry, I can't remember her name), Pat Lowe (secretary)

## Newsletter

Due to unforeseen circumstances the newsletter has not been finished so Sarah has agreed to complete the newsletter so distribution can take place before Christmas. Laurence agreed to distribute.

It was thought it would be good to aim for two newsletters per year as this would be more achievable.

## Autumn Fair

We have received confirmation from some stall holders already regarding their attendance. These have been from: The Epsom Protection Society; Guides; Epsom Common Association; FoHCP (of course); Friends of the Hogsmill; Ashted Common Rangers; Natural England; the Epsom Spinners and Nescot.

The next stage is to send out letters to all the other organisations to ask if they could confirm their attendance. **Date for stuffing envelopes: Mon 19<sup>th</sup> Jan at 2pm** in the New Room of Horton Country Park.

## Volunteer Tasks

The task in Pond Wood was very successful. The vegetation along the path connecting the two ends of the main path through the wood was cleared to create easier access and a useful woodland glade.

A new path was also constructed connecting the main path to the field 'Great Ridings', via the culvert bridge across the stream. (This is the stream which leaves the Pond and flows in to the farmland along the western boundary of HCP).

Tasks in Dec: We will be coppicing Butcher's Grove on the 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, and Sun 21<sup>st</sup>

Tasks for 2009:

**Feb – Sun 22<sup>nd</sup> – Stream vegetation management in Pond Wood.**

## **Orchard**

Sarah agreed to talk to the Tree Officer (Jeremy Young) regarding the trees in the orchard. At the time of writing the minutes, JY has agreed that the trees could be pruned using some of his budget but unfortunately not until next year. Sarah will remind him in the new financial year to factor in the pruning of these trees in to the budget.

## **Grants**

Laurence investigated the grant available from Pond Action with a view to restoring Lambert's Pond (in the old part of the Orchard). Unfortunately their grant is now closed for applications. There is a new grant called the Million Ponds scheme run by Pond Conservation to aid in implementing the Habitat Action Plan.

HLS (Higher Level Stewardship) – The application has been submitted so we should start receiving money during Feb/Mar 09. This money will be given to EEBC to carry out specific works identified in the plan submitted.

## **Woodland Management**

Rob Stringer will be coppicing an area of Butcher's Grove during Dec 08 and Jan 09. He is very keen to coppice in HCP every year and possibly do some general woodland management around the park. Laurence Crow is also interested in thinning the plantations to gain the firewood. Hopefully this will start during winter 09.

## **Next Meeting**

Tues 3<sup>rd</sup> February in the new room at HCP.