

re-wild



I am sure many of you will have seen the ongoing forestry work at Headstone Copse. With support from the SDNP volunteer rangers & a grant we have re-routed the parish footpath along the west boundary of the copse. We would like to invite you to use this new path for the benefit of the older trees & wildlife in the copse. Unfortunately over recent years the increased footfall on the existing footpath has affected the roots of the older trees and is limiting the spread of the bluebells & other native wildflowers into the newer secondary woodland part of the copse. The majority of the large felled timber will be extracted from the copse in June/July & the brash will be used to create habitat for birds such as wrens. Some of the timber will be used by a local green woodworker & if you have a skill in this area that would benefit from ash please get in touch to discuss. Over the next year we will also be continuing to fell some of the ash which runs alongside the community path & leave a reasonable amount on the floor of the copse as important deadwood habitats for insects & fungi. We anticipate that the increased levels of sunlight to the community path will increase the wildlife & wildflowers along its length. Furthermore I have invested in some woodland wildflower seeds and a wider variety of understory trees & bushes which will be planted to add to your enjoyment of the path & add the overall bio-diversity of the woodland.

I am so grateful to have been gifted 50 oak saplings grown from acorns taken from an ancient oak tree that had to be felled to make way for the HS2 project. These saplings will be planted soon.

Please could I remind users of the that it is a footpath not a cycle track & it circles the perimeter of the copse.

If anyone would like to volunteer in helping us manage / create habitats along the community footpath or other conservation tasks in the copse, such as the creation of a wildlife pond please get in touch. We will shortly putting nest boxes & bat boxes in the copse & would welcome any volunteers to assist with their manufacture of our bespoke designs. We are also looking for volunteers to keep the bird feeders topped up that we will be erecting along the community path.

I would like to make walking along the path an even more enjoyable experience for local people that access the copse. Unfortunately we have limited funds and we would like to invite you to consider donating any sum for the benefit of future generations of path users. Any funds raised will contribute to the purchase of some wooden community path signs, an information board, more wild flower seeds including foxgloves & bluebells, wild bird feed, wildflower plugs, tree saplings, wild daffodil & snowdrop bulbs & some benches that we hope to have along side the community path. If anyone would like to fund a complete bench we are happy to arrange for it to be dedicated to particular individual(s)/group & we would consider locating it at key viewpoints along the community path. We would also like to put up some nest cameras & other wildlife cameras so we can upload its content onto our website for all to see what the badgers, deer & fox have been up to. If you would like to share any pictures of wildlife taking in the copse please contact us.

We are looking to run some community events in the copse soon along with some nature connection events for small groups of children & adults. If you are interested in:

- Donating
- Supporting a cake & coffee event or family community picnic
- Finding out more information about our planned nature connection events
- please see our website www.wildscout.co.uk & contact us.

Thoughts of spring & stay safe

Jay Witts

