

## Tongham Wood Improvement Group - Newsletter

Tongham Wood Improvement Group (TWIG) is a small group of volunteers who maintain and improve an area of land between the A331 and Tongham village owned by Surrey County Council. Access can be obtained via three entrances – from the lockups off Garbetts Way, from the lockups between Blenheim Close and Grieve Close, and from the underpass to Heron Wood.

The volunteer group meet at 10.00am every third Sunday of the month at the Garbetts Way entrance and everyone is welcome to join us in maintenance tasks including tree planting, path maintenance, tree management, wild flower planting and general tidying and litter picking.

TWIG has been in existence for twenty years or so. It was established with the help of the Blackwater Valley Countryside Partnership (BVCP) to improve this piece of land. Originally it was in total disrepair and being used for fly tipping but was gradually transformed into an amenity for the village and a refuge for wildlife. Since then boundary fencing and paths have been established and over 3000 trees including an orchard of fruit trees have been planted and the area can now be easily accessed. Nature diversity has also been encouraged with the various works that we have actioned.

Over the last year or so we have performed the following tasks :

- Rebuilt one of the bridges over a drainage ditch.



- Established 400 meters of dog proof fencing along the length of the A331 with assistance from the BVCP volunteers.
- Planted another 400 wild hedge trees along the boundary with the developing new Grange Road housing.

- Sowed wild flowers and planted bulbs in the woodland areas.



- Maintained paths and cleared fallen trees after the storms.



I also have to thank the BVCP who assist us with some of the more complex tasks and support us as required out of the goodness of their hearts although they no longer get funding from Surrey County Council.

This enforced restriction of aid from the BVCP is currently our biggest challenge but we have also gratefully received annual financial assistance from Tongham Parish Council which covers our insurance and contributes to materials for our various tasks, especially for the A331 fencing last year.



All this has only been possible with the commitment of the volunteers and we are always keen to have new people join us. No experience is necessary and tasks can be as energetic as you want so come along down on the third Sunday of the month. Children are welcome but must be accompanied by an adult. Alternatively why not just visit for a walk round the Woods and admire the display of Spring wild flowers currently in bloom.

Iain Murray  
Chairman Tongham Wood Improvement Group (TWIG)