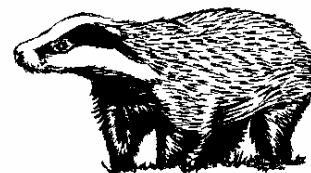


Friends of Zebon Copse



Friends of Zebon Copse

Friends of Zebon Copse was created to help protect and manage the nature reserve, and provide information for anyone who has an interest in this ecologically valuable little habitat and the wealth of wildlife to be found within it. The group is informal and receives updates via email regarding current management to benefit visitors and the array of species which exploit the reserve, as well as work party schedules and visitor events. 'Friends' may also choose to help to manage the reserve by picking up litter or helping on one of the volunteer work parties. Others simply keep an eye on the reserve and report any abuses such as fly tipping, or record any wildlife they might find.



Volunteer Work Parties

Zebon Copse is fortunate in having a committed group of volunteers who meet every other month to carry out tasks to benefit the reserve and visiting members of the public. Tasks vary from path resurfacing to scrub clearance, ensuring that the mire habitat is not lost to the woodland. Without the dedication of the volunteers much of this work could not be achieved. The work parties are always light-hearted and fun and provide a great way to meet other volunteers and get fit at the same time. Dates alternate between Sundays and Wednesdays every other month and everyone is welcome. Please be advised that under 16 year olds need to be accompanied by an adult. We meet along the tarmac path that runs from Sylvester Way to Londlandes at 10am. All tools and refreshments are provided but you are advised to bring gardening gloves and sensible footwear.

For further details, or to be put onto the Friends mailing list please email northern.sites@hants.gov.uk or telephone Hampshire County Council Countryside Service 01252 870425.



Zebon Copse News & Events

All the recent heavy rain has left some sizable pools of water around the Copse, which may be good news for toads, frogs and egg-laying dragonflies but it is not quite so much fun for those of you trying to negotiate your way around puddles on the tracks. Please bear with us as we raise paths and put drainage pipes in place, hopefully alleviating the worst of the problems. Some of these repairs will be carried out with our volunteer group so feel free to join in if you have the time or the inclination!



Frog spawn has appeared in the wet woodland and birds are claiming territories and finding mates, letting us know that spring is here again. There are posters displaying some of the more common spring plants on the central notice board for those of you who may be interested. On a less positive note the amount of fly tipping seems to be increasing at the moment, including green waste that a small minority of people are simply throwing over their fences onto pathways. Although this may seem harmless, fly-tipping is unsightly, smothers wild plants and the nutrient input leads to rank vegetation. It can also result in garden plants spreading onto the Copse at the expense of our native flora. The ranger team recently spent a morning clearing exhaust pipes, office chairs, car batteries and similar rubbish out of the Copse, which is time that could be better spent educating young visitors or carrying out site improvements. Please do not allow your Copse to become a dumping ground and be aware that fly-tipping, even of garden waste is a criminal offence which carries a maximum fine of £50,000.

Forthcoming Events

Bug's Life – Saturday 18th August 10.30am – 12.00

Come and meet your local bugs! Join the rangers trapping invertebrates around Zebon Copse with pitfall traps and sweep nets. This event is aimed at primary school aged children. All children must be supervised by an adult. Child-friendly dogs are welcome. Please meet at Velmead Community Centre.

Bat Chat – Thursday 23rd August 8.15pm

Join Basingstoke Canal Ranger and local bat expert Paul Hope on a walk around the Copse listening to bats using echo-location equipment. This walk is suitable for anyone with an interest in these fascinating little mammals. Insect repellent and a torch highly recommended. No dogs and please meet at Velmead Community Centre.

For further information please contact the rangers on 01252 870425 or email northern.sites@hants.gov.uk.