

A new era for Old Park Pond

Old Park Pond, part of the Howe Barracks military training area and Site of Special Scientific Interest, has suffered some abuse in recent years. The KSCP has worked with the community helping to manage the site, carrying out tasks to deal with littering and fly tipping. The introduction of the Reed Pond Community Fishing Club will hopefully improve the area and also make better use of the resources that are there. More information can be found on the club's website www.reedpond.org.uk



An event at No Man's Orchard

No Mans Orchard, 60 years on!

No Mans Orchard Local Nature Reserve near Chartham Hatch is celebrating for two reasons. It's sixty years since the planting of the orchard and it has also received a £7,000 grant from Awards For All. The grant will be used to put on a large community event on the 26th of July, focusing on orchards and apples. If you would like to take part through having a stall or putting on an activity please contact Matt Hayes at the KSCP office.



Countryside events around Canterbury & the Wantsum

Sandwich Town Council Farmers' Market - Guildhall Forecourt - Sat 29th March and then the last Saturday of each month 9.00am to 1.00pm

Dawn walk - Blean Woods NNR car park, Rough Common - Sun 27th April 4.30am. RSPB. £4/£3 01227 455972

Kids' night out - Blean Woods NNR car park - Fri 2nd May 7.00pm. RSPB £2.50/£1.50 01227 455972

Dawn walk - Blean Woods NNR car park - Sun 4th May 4.30am. RSPB. £4/£3 01227 455972

In search of the Duke of Burgundy - Denge Woods, Waltham (gate TR099503) 4th May 10.30am. Butterfly Conservation. Booking Essential 01303 815171

Evening walk - Blean Woods NNR car park - Fri 9th May 8.00pm. RSPB £2.50/£1.50 01227 455972

Evening walk - Blean Woods NNR car park - Fri 16th May 8.00pm. RSPB £2.50/£1.50 01227 455972

Evening walk - Blean Woods NNR car park - Sat 31st May 8.00pm. RSPB £2.50/£1.50 01227 455972

Evening walk - Blean Woods NNR car park - Sat 7th June 8.00pm. RSPB £2.50/£1.50 01227 455972

Bridge Summer Fete - Bridge Primary School on Conyngham Lane - Sat 14th June starts at 12.00

Heath fritillary walk - Blean Woods NNR car park - Sun 22nd June 2.30pm. RSPB £2.50/£1.50 01227 455972

Chislet Fair - Chislet Court Farm - Sat 28th June starts 1.00pm

Blean Pre-school's 40th Anniversary Fete - Blean Recreation Ground - Sat 12th July 2.00pm onwards

No Mans Orchard, 60 years on - No Man's Orchard, Chartham Hatch - Sat 26th July. 01233 813307

Volunteering

Come along and lend a hand with a variety of enjoyable and worthwhile practical conservation projects throughout the Stour Valley!

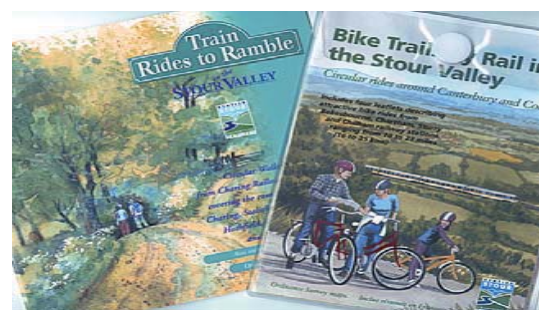
For our detailed programme, 'phone us on 01233 813307 or go to our website and click on 'get involved'.

Volunteer days

Wednesdays (Ashford area): Meet 9.15 at the KSCP Offices.

Thursdays (Canterbury & Wantsum): Meet 9.15 at KSCP offices or 9.45 at North Lane Car Park, Canterbury.

KSCP publications, for those who enjoy the countryside



Train Rides to Ramble (£3.99) & **Bike Trails by Train** (£2.50) Circular walks and cycle rides from railway stations in the Stour Valley. Full colour, clear maps and directions, packed with information and illustrations.



Stour Valley Walk & Elham Valley Way (£5.00) Recreational walks produced by Kent County Council with help from KSCP.



Wildsites (£1.00) A guide to 31 wildlife sites in the Stour Valley.

All available from local Tourist Information Centres, quality bookshops, KSCP, and Kent County Council (08458 247600 or env.publications@kent.gov.uk).



The countryside & urban green space newsletter for people living in & around Canterbury & the Wantsum area

Stour View

Canterbury & Wantsum

Issue 39
Spring 2008

Canterbury is surrounded by special ancient woodland and protected landscapes and has the only major river in East Kent flowing through the city. The River Great Stour is a beautiful asset for the area and is designated as a Local Wildlife Site. The most important wildlife site along the river is Stodmarsh National Nature Reserve, being a premier reedbed habitat. Between Canterbury, Reculver and Sandwich is the old Wantsum Channel, reclaimed from the sea, with pretty villages lining what used to be the old shoreline.

Aiming high: the work of Clean Kent

2008 marks the four year anniversary of Clean Kent, a multi-agency initiative committed to improving Kent's environment. Facilitated by Kent County Council, Clean Kent is a partnership involving the 12 district and borough councils, Kent Police, Kent Fire and Rescue, the Environment Agency, Highways Agency, HM Prison Service and the Kent Probation Area, as well as voluntary organisations.

Since its inception, Clean Kent has accomplished much in the fight against flytipping, littering and graffiti. Key achievements include a 15% reduction in the reported incidences of flytipping and a 40% reduction in rubbish fires. A dedicated enforcement unit has also helped deter crime as have initiatives such as the Neighbourhood Response Teams.



From working with teams to protect Kent's countryside to educational projects in schools across the county, Clean Kent aims to positively influence behaviour across all sectors of society, young and old. Education plays an important role and Clean Kent offers children of all ages a wide variety of schemes designed to teach them the benefits of protecting, respecting and preserving their environment.

Moving onwards and upwards, the next steps are to build on successes. In summarizing the campaign's achievements, Clean Kent Coordinator, Melanie Price comments: "Positive change is at the heart of Clean Kent. We've come a long way and recognise there is still ground to cover. With continued co-operation from our partners and the public, we can make Kent a cleaner, safer and more beautiful place to live and work."

Free range chicken



Recent media attention has turned to chicken, and its treatment, highlighting the conditions that commercial birds are reared in. If like many, you were unaware of the reality of the commercial poultry market, you may now wish to make some changes to your usual weekly shop. There are a number of local food producers in Kent that provide a wide range of local, organic and free range products. Local butchers and farmers markets are a good place to start, more information can be found at www.made-in-kent.co.uk and www.freerangereview.com and producedinkent.co.uk

Project Sponsors



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Horse grazing for wildlife

As one of the fastest growing industries in the UK the cumulative effect of stables, hard-standing, menages, paddocks and muck lumps is having an effect on the landscape of the Stour Valley. Most noticeably large swathes of landscape are becoming transected by a variety of fencing materials. Meadows full of wildflowers and rich with butterflies, insects and birds once common in the countryside are becoming alarmingly rare. Being a horse owner is a specialist skill in its self, but further understanding is required of landscape management. By putting simple management practices in place you can create a vibrant and healthy environment for your horse and wildlife. For more details on pasture management please contact the KSCP.



Temporary fencing



Brown argus larva requires food-plants such as common rock rose

Herb rich horse grazed sward



Local produce for sale - traditional bean/pea sticks

Would you like to purchase some traditional bean and pea sticks for your garden or allotment? Not only will they look attractive but you'll be supporting a local product and avoiding, in some cases, bamboo imports. The KSCP carry out coppicing of hazel each year and we are offering to deliver bean and pea sticks while stocks last. The bean sticks will come in bundles of 10 costing £5. They are 8 feet (2 metres) long and most should last three years. Pea sticks - bundles of 20 at £3, are 3-4 feet (1 metre) and will probably only last one season. Contact the KSCP to place an order, delivery early April to locations within or close to the KSCP Project area.



A guided walk for the Ashford International Chinese Association

Welcome to the wildside

Natural England has recently launched the Welcome to the Wildside Project, this is a community based project focussing on three National Nature Reserves - Wye (near Ashford), Ham Street Woods (near Ashford) and Stodmarsh (near Canterbury). The project will be putting on a variety of activities ranging from art workshops, to woodland management walks, catering for different ages and abilities. There will also be volunteer days to get local people involved in the nature reserves. For further information 01233 811205 or emma.griffiths@naturalengland.org.uk

Riverside Path

Great progress has been made in planning for the 5km path between Canterbury and Chartham. There was overwhelming support for the path at the Public Consultation event in November; all landowners have now given their permission for the path; and it has passed through the Cycle Tracks Act. Planning permission will hopefully be approved in February ready for construction to start in the summer.



Conservation grant

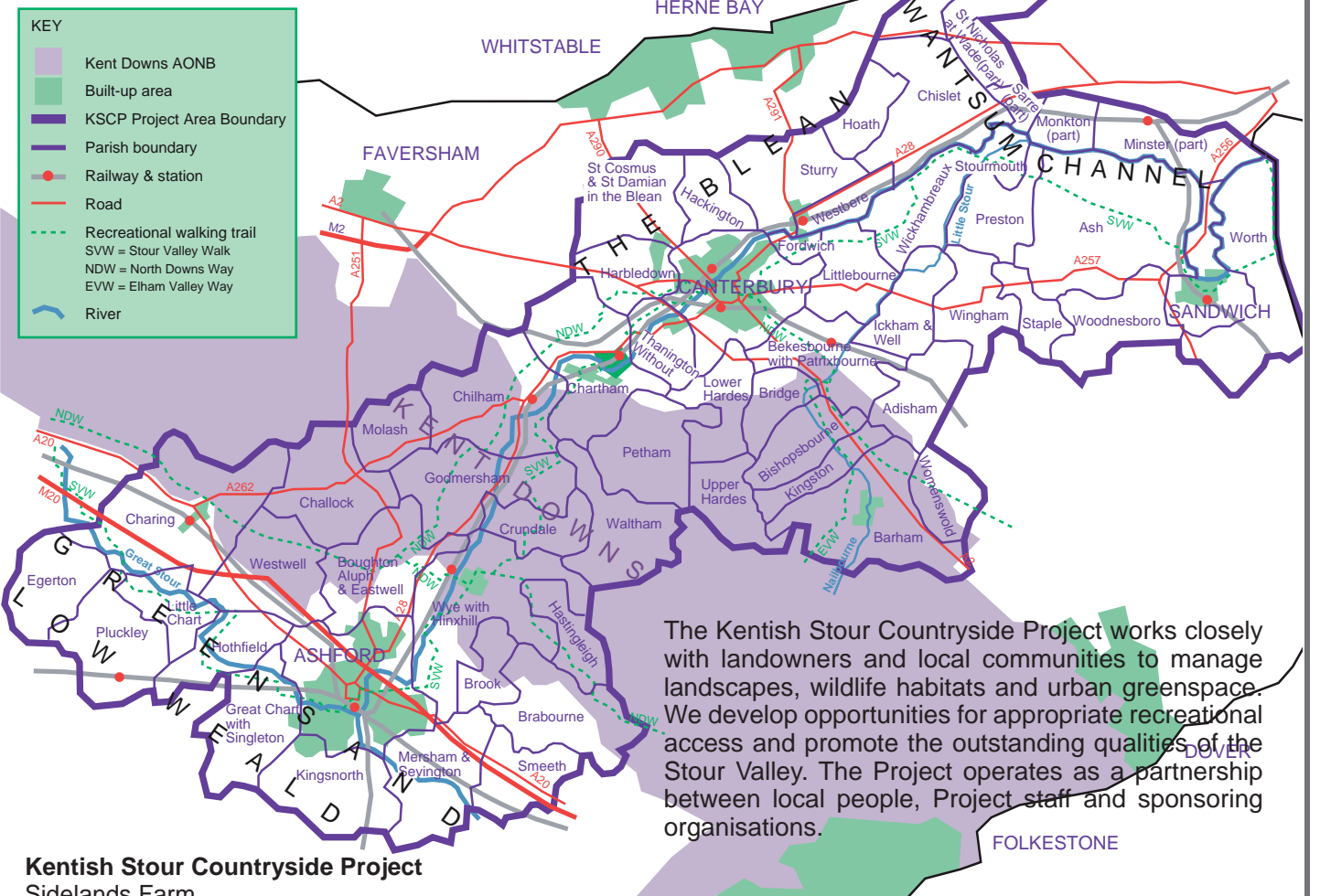
KSCP offer small grants to help fund conservation projects in the area. One of the recent KSCP grants helped establish a two hundred metre hedge at Willow Farm Cottage near Hoath. KSCP contributed towards plant costs and the volunteers planted the hedge late last year. The volunteers will make a return visit to mulch the hedge giving it a good start for the future.



KCC members fund minibus

Contributions from the Kent County Council Small Community Capital Grants fund has allowed the KSCP to purchase a three year old minibus that will be used by its volunteers. Jon Shelton from the KSCP says 'We had our previous crewbus for 15 years and it served us really well over all that time, to the point that I think the volunteers were sorry to see it go. We would like to loan the minibus to local groups such as schools and youth groups around our base in Wye, to ensure that most use is made of it, so please contact us if you are interested.

About the Project



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The Kentish Stour Countryside Project works closely with landowners and local communities to manage landscapes, wildlife habitats and urban greenspace. We develop opportunities for appropriate recreational access and promote the outstanding qualities of the Stour Valley. The Project operates as a partnership between local people, Project staff and sponsoring organisations.

Project Manager: Jon Shelton
Ashford Countryside Officer: Debbie Adams
Canterbury & Wantsum Countryside Officer: Matt Hayes
Assistant Project Officer (PT): Craig Edwards

Forestry work in the Blean

Visitors to Clowes Wood between Tyler Hill and Chestfield might have noticed the forestry work taking place over winter. The work is due to last over a year and has been contracted by the Forestry Commission who own the wood. It is all part of normal forestry operations and care is being taken not to damage the Crab and Winkle Way surface but some tracks in the wood will inevitably suffer some short term rutting. Clowes Wood has been identified by the Forestry Commission as a wood to return to native broadleaved trees so where conifer plantations are felled they will not be replanted with conifers. Meanwhile the RSPB have been busy improving paths at Blean Woods National Nature Reserve and producing a new leaflet for the Reserve tel: 01227 455972.



Crop thinning operations at Clowes



Blean calendar

The Blean Heritage and Community Group have produced a 2008 calendar with pictures from their photo competition. The calendar is available from 01227 372519 or blean.initiative@canterbury.gov.uk

One of the winning pictures from the competition representing December

Conservation on the continent

Plans are underfoot for a French foray for KSCP volunteers with two planned exchange weekends in early 2008. February will see KSCP voyage across to Nord Pas de Calais to renew relations with French environmental conservation group "Les Blongios" before the return weekend 22nd-23rd March when the French will join us for a weekend of hedge planting in Hastingleigh near Wye.



A joint KSCP Les Blongios task