

Allington Hill, Cooper's Wood and Field Community Group Spring/Summer Special 2016

Which Activity?

Well, what do you like doing?

One of the community groups aims is to ensure that we provide activities throughout the year that will appeal to different people so that they can get the most out of the wonderful green space we have.

We need to know what you like doing?

National Volunteer Week is from June 1st to June 12th and we have a list of activities to entice all walks of life. Please come along and meet the volunteers, find out what we do, the projects we are involved in and let us know what you want for the area.

Inside this special edition you will find out all the details for the forth coming events.

All events are free to attend. We do have some fund raising activities at the major events. The funds raised help look after the area and support the group.

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NATIONAL VOLUNTEERING WEEK

We have one of the most proactive community groups in West Dorset. Over the last five years we have received funding and support from organisations, such as Bridport Town Council, Allington Parish Council, Woodland Trust, Waitrose, West Bay Car Boot Fund, Lloyds Bank Community Fund, A.O.N.B, Dorset Wildlife Trust, Postcode Lottery Trust and of course most importantly the local community.

The word volunteer is interpreted by many as hard work, regular commitment, time consuming and something you do when you retire. We like to look at it as "freely offer to do something." This means it does not need to be hard work, there is no regular commitment, an hour makes a difference and can be done by any age group.

We have produced this volunteering newsletter so that everyone is given the opportunity to "freely offer to do something" in which ever way you feel you can.

We will also be taking the opportunity to celebrate the volunteers that have helped us over the last year and say thank you. Not only working parties, but those that pour cups of tea, make cakes, oversee the use of bouncy castles, live music at our festivals, lending us equipment, building bonfires, emptying dog poo bins, litter picking, raking hay, photos for the calendar, the list goes on. Once again THANK YOU.

THANK YOU

Wednesday June 1st
7.30pm

Ancient Tree Hunt

FREE ACTIVITY

Help us record the ancient and noble trees in the area.

This is part of the Dorset Greenwood Tree Project.

Dorset Wildlife Trust are working together with the Woodland Trust to record the ancient trees of Dorset.

You do not need any experience, all the information you need has been provided in a special booklet given to us by Dorset Wildlife Trust.

Saturday June 4th
2pm

Aiden's Allington Amble

ENTRY FEE £5 UP TO A FAMILY OF FOUR

FUND RAISING ACTIVITY TO PROVIDE FREE EVENTS FOR CHILDREN.

Local lad Aiden is raising money to help provide special outdoor play equipment for local children to use on the amenity area in Cooper's Field.

Aiden also hopes to raise enough money to fund activity events for families based on woodland activities.

Wednesday June 8th
6.30pm

Litter Pick

FREE ACTIVITY

Help the volunteers give the hill a spring clean. All age groups welcome.

Rubbish is not a huge problem on the hill, but can be dangerous for wildlife.

Help remove cans, glass, plastic and food wrappers.

Plastic disposable gloves, litter pickers and bin bags will be provided.

Sunday June 12th
Midday

Annual picnic event

FREE EVENT

Refreshments and Tombola to raise funds.

An event not only to celebrate the Queen's 90th Birthday, but Sir David Attenboroughs and Winnie the Pooh's!

We will have the usual mix of sports events, wildlife trail and activities for the whole family.

Just bring along a picnic for the whole family and join in the fun.



DORSET GREENWOOD TREE PROJECT

Discovering, conserving and celebrating Dorset's Veteran Trees

*Working alongside The Woodland Trust - Ancient Tree Hunt
a nationwide initiative to secure the
future for old, fat trees in the UK.*

Why we must look after our Veteran Trees.

Unlike the elderly human population which numbers are expanding year on year, veteran trees are in serious decline.

Why does it matter? Just like Elderly people, trees in their latter years need help to continue to have a good quality of life. We need to know where these trees are and if they are in threat of competition from other trees or scrub that could shorten their lives.

They are one of the most important habitats for hundreds of insects, birds and mammals. The older the tree the more life that depends on it.

Historically through history man has often plundered woodland and not replanted. In the 1970's the tree population hit an all time low in the uk. Once these Veteran trees die, it will take 1 to 2 hundred years for them to be replaced.

This is why we want to record and care for the older trees on the hill.

Life cycle of a tree

The best way to understand the life cycle of a tree is as follows.

The childhood years: The new kid on the block has a lot of growing up to do. It will receive a few knocks on the way, nibbled, chewed and shaded by others, but by its teenage years it can hold its own. It will start shading out its competitors and making its own personal space.

Middle age: For some trees this stage will last for hundreds of years. Like humans the growth slows and the tree in its prime and flourishes. It produces seed, (children) provides shelter (a home) and becomes a habitat (extended family) in its own right.

Old age: Us humans slowly decline in our later years. A few wrinkles start to appear and our limbs do not work as well as they use to. Often elderly trees will sacrifice a bough to help it survive. Cracks and holes appear and the tree slowly starts to decline. The tree takes on a new character becoming one of the most important trees in the wood. Just like Grandma, the matriarch, wise and much loved by the whole family.

WEDNESDAY JUNE 1ST 7.30PM

Aiden's Allington Hill Amble Saturday June 4th 2016 from 2pm

Fun for all the family

Aiden's Mini Amble, for children aged 4 and under.

Aiden's Adventure Amble, for children aged 12 and under.

Aiden's Allington Hill Amble, for all children under 90!

also

Martial Arts demonstration, tombola, refreshments

Please help me. If I can raise £200, it will fund a box full of play equipment that families can borrow to play outdoors in Cooper's Field amenity area. If I raise £500 we can fund some children's free activity days for children throughout the year.

To register and receive your entry form, please email allingtonhill@gmail.com
(minimum £5 entry fee/sponsorship or donation required.)

Aiden Cooper, aged 14

Cooper's Field
main entrance, Hospital Lane,
North Allington



Why we must encourage children.

The children our the future volunteers that will look after the hill. We all have childhood memories of special places and we are drawn back to them in future years.

Many of the volunteers we have today, played on the hill in their youth. But we have a generation gap, there are no younger volunteers coming forward. We have hardly any volunteers between the ages of 20-50.

Many within that age group were not encouraged as children to play outside, educated about wildlife, or feel a connection with their local environment.

We try and encourage families to take part and educate adults as well. Not all white butterflies are cabbage whites, nor all little brown birds the same species. How many people can name wild flowers and insects they see?

The Hill and Cooper's Field are unique in the fact they are within a stones throw of the town, housing estates and has open access to all.

We have inspired Aiden and his family, so please support him to encourage more families to enjoy the wonders of the hill.

AIDEN NEEDS YOUR HELP

To help Aiden raise as much money as possible he needs volunteers between 2-5pm to...

Run the refreshment stall

Look after the Tombola

Register entries

Marshall the event.

Aiden would also like tombola prizes and some lovely homemade cakes.

If you wish to make a donation to help Aiden reach his target,

please visit [www.justgiving / Aidens-allingtonamble](http://www.justgiving.com/Aidens-allingtonamble)

If you can help, please contact me by email allingtonhill@gmail.com and let me know what you would like to do. Please bring all tombola prizes and cakes to the event.

SATURDAY 4TH JUNE 2PM



TALKING RUBBISH

People come to enjoy the woodland, views and wildlife. What we can't understand is why they then want to turn it into a rubbish dump. The things that the volunteers have removed over the years include, continental quilt, tents, shopping trolley, tarpaulins, deposable B.B.Q's, nappies, cling film, seats, nets, as well as the usual, water bottles, beer cans, wine bottles, crisp and sweet wrappers and discarded poo bags.

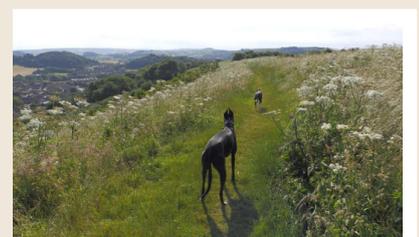
Last year volunteers took it in turns every month to litter pick. This project worked very well, until there seemed to be very litter left to pick.

After six months without any organised litter pick the amount has started to increase. We want to ensure that this doesn't yet again become a problem.

Two volunteers Pat and Chris empty the two poo bins every week. The bags are so heavy they often use a sack truck, or as I did when they were both away, a trolley. It was the most I could do to pull it along.

With the lighter mornings and evenings the amount of dog waste that is being picked up has increased. These bins are well used as is the one by the main gate.

We would like to thank everyone that does pick up and the two ladies that empty the bins.



*Wonderful!
Please don't spoil it for
others
Leave nothing behind
except
your footprints*

Rubbish and wildlife do not mix. Much has been reported about rubbish and marine wildlife, but it affects land based wildlife too. Young animals and birds will often try to eat plastic bags as they work out if it is food or not. Discarded bottles and cans can become traps as they get stuck inside. Food such as cake, chicken bones and chocolate can be fatal for some animals.

WEDNESDAY 8TH OF JUNE 6.30PM



Queen's 90th Birthday Picnic Event

Sunday 12th June
12pm

TUG OF WAR : SACK RACE : WELLIE THROWING
EGG AND SPOON

NATURE TRAIL : TREASURE HUNT
REFRESHMENT STALL : TOMBOLA

FREE ENTRY

COOPER'S FIELD, ALLINGTON HILL

HOSPITAL LANE, NORTH ALLINGTON, BRIDPORT

EMAIL: allingtonhill@gmail.com Facebook: Allington Hillbillies

Our annual picnic event.

This year we are holding our picnic event a week early to join in the celebration of the Queen's 90th birthday.

But we do like doing things differently, so we are also going to be celebrating the 90th birthday of Sir David Attenborough and Winnie the Pooh!

You can bring your own picnic, invite the family and join in the fun. We will hold a nature trail with a difference, looking for snakes, parrots, monkeys, and perhaps the odd alligator.

We hope that Winnie the Pooh fans will come along. Sadly we can't play Pooh sticks but I am sure there will be plenty of other games to play.

We will be flying the flag for the Queen (any excuse to wear my union jack dress again.)

It will also be an opportunity to just come along and thank the volunteers for all their work throughout the year and find out about future projects.



PLEASE HELP US

WE NEED TOMBOLA PRIZES

CAKES

HELP WITH REFRESHMENTS

HELP WITH CHILDREN'S GAMES



All proceeds help fund the volunteer group. All funding we have recently received is for dedicated projects such as purchasing a second hand tractor, the flower meadow and new hedge line project, which have been part funded by the People's Postcode Lottery Trust.

It's the simple things that add up, for example black sacks for the poo bins, rubber gloves, secretarial and event costs such as port-a-loo hire. Please help us in anyway you can.