

2015 Quarter 4 Update from the Nonsuch Voles

The Voles carried out the following activities in the last Quarter:

In and around the Mansion House:-

- Walnut Copse: On Friday 11th December, the Voles helped to plant the Walnut Copse. 21 trees, grown by Mike Ford, were planted. It was a great team effort; the planting team were: Mr & Mrs Ford, Jeremy Young, the Nonsuch Park team, and 7 members of the Voles. The Voles will help with weeding and watering the trees to help them get established.

- We gave the pond in the Mansion House garden some attention by pruning back some of the overhanging shrubs, whilst maintaining shaded areas for wildlife in the pond.

- We continued to help with general maintenance in the garden including pruning, planting, edging and weeding. This winter, we are embarking on a major prune of some of the large Yew hedges. Around 10 gardening volunteers normally attend every Thursday.

- The Toro electric utility vehicle has proved to be very useful and has increased our ability to move all manner of woodland and garden materials and tools around.

In the woods:-

- We have started the winter 2015/16 coppicing and thinning work, according to the woodland management plan and are working in The Wood (on the right of the path which leads up to Cheam Park) and in Boundary Copse (along the old concrete road). We have also planted about 30 native trees which we have been growing in our small tree nursery. These include oaks grown from acorns from the magnificent trees near the Mansion House.

- We have received another free tree pack – this time from the Trust for Conservation Volunteers (TCV). We will grow-on the saplings and plant them out at a later date in the woods. Species include: oak, beech, hornbeam, lime and sweet chestnut.

Other activities:-

- Jon has made 2 more swift boxes which can be installed in the Spring.

- We carried out a small amount of hazel coppicing and other woodland improvement work at Warren Farm (at the invitation of Jean Frame, the Woodland Trust site manager).

- The Voles held craft stalls at Nonsuch Awareness Day and the St Dunstan's Christmas Fair to spread the word about our work in the Park and to raise funds by selling items of Nonsuch wood craft.

So far this year, to the end of November, the gardening group have volunteered a total of 1437 hours and the woodland group 2088 hours.

Nonsuch Voles - 13/12/2015