**FOLLYWOOD CORE GROUP MEETING SUNDAY 21ST SEPT**

**Present**; Mark Harrison (minutes), Ben Spencer, Richard Keating, Andy Freedman, Ruth Illingham.

**Apologies**; Alice Goodenough, Wendy Gerrard

**Insurance**; The forms and cheque have been submitted. TCV replied that we have to do risk assessments for all events or Zurich Insurance will not provide insurance cover. Ben has assured them that we will do this. MARK to follow this up and provide 3 general risk assessments, for sitting round fire, for woodland management and for larger events.

We are no longer insured for use of chainsaws in the wood. Only qualified and insured contractors can now use chainsaws in the wood.

All groups who now use the wood will have to provide us with a risk assessment before their events.

**Woody Women**; Stroud Valleys Project have asked if they may be able to use the wood for a women’s wood group, initially for 1 day, and then maybe a camp overnight. In principle we thought that this would be fine but we would first like to know more about what they intend to do.

(Any groups that use the wood will need to provide loo roll and hand sanitiser for the newly commissioned compost loo.)

**Action Plan**; BEN will send round an email reminding members about the action plan for the wood and that there are opportunities and funds should they wish to progress the plan.

The core group then planned 4 events in the woods over the next 6 months;

Sunday Nov 16th. Activity day. 12-1pm core group meeting, 1pm lunch, 2pm woodland management clearing brambles and undergrowth round newly planted trees and tree identification.

Sunday Dec 21st. Winter solstice event. 12pm fire lighting with Andy Freedman. 1pm lunch and solstice celebration.

Sunday Feb 8th. Core group meeting 12pm. Lunch 1pm. Woodland management in the afternoon.

Sunday March 22nd. Woodland activities and combined AGM. 12pm AGM. 1pm lunch. Woodland management in the afternoon.

**Training;** Richard and Alice have drawn up a suggested list of training needs for the members of Follywood. Please could this list be sent round with the invite for Nov 16th event so that it can be discussed on that day.

**Website**; Contact Tom (thomas.keating[at]sgscol.ac.uk) if you would like a username and password to access the calendar or Ben (spencer.ben[at]btinternet.com) should you wish to book an event on the calendar.

**Haresfield Wood**; we have been offered the possibility of renting a wood at Haresfield from the Woodland Trust . We don’t think that we have the time or capacity to take on anything at the moment but would be happy to talk to any group who may want to take it on if that would be of help. However, BEN will ask the Woodland Trust to keep us informed of any other woods that may come up.

**Good from Woods research report**; this has now been submitted. There will be a summary to send out to members. Thanks to all who were involved.

**Finances**; we currently have £3842 in the bank, after paying for the insurance (£232). BEN is to get the forms from the bank to add Mark as a signatory and to get statements sent to Mark. MARK is to set a date for annual donations and to check on this.

MARK is to move and rebuild the fireplace. ANDY is to investigate getting a decent fire grate for the fire.

BEN is to send out certificates to new members.

Next meeting, Sunday Nov 16th 12pm.