



Press Release

Monday 3rd October 2011

For immediate release

Warm Weather Doesn't Deter Westfield Work Party

Local residents and volunteers have spent a sweaty Sunday tidying up the woods and open spaces of Westfield Common, Woking, as temperatures peaked at 30 degrees in some parts of Surrey one of the hottest October days on record.

Held next to the Children's Play Area on Balfour Avenue, Woking, The event was jointly organised by Surrey Wildlife Trust (SWT), Surrey Greenspace Project (SGP) and Westfield Common Residents Association, with a skip and recycling bags provided by Woking Borough Council.

40 volunteers braved the unseasonably hot weather, working hard to fill the skip with a number items removed from the common - including a tyre, go cart, For-Sale sign and an oil drum - as well as over 30 bags of general rubbish and 20 bags of recyclable cans and glass.

Frances Halstead, SGP Environmental Group Support Officer said "we were very pleased with the number of people who gave up their Sunday to help clean up the Common. This tidy up has helped to improve the appearance of the area which had become quite neglected. We just weren't expecting to have to dust off the sun-cream!"

Families also got the chance to take part in a 'Live 'n' Deadly - Deadly Scene Investigation', a fun activity designed for children by CBBC . Investigators were given a booklet and asked to solve the wildlife crime by following a trail around Westfield Common, searching for clues. After successfully solving the crime the children left with a badge and a certificate.

For more information about the Surrey Greenspace Project and how you can get involved. Email frances.halstead@surreywt.org.uk.

Ends

For more information please contact:

Marcus Wehrle, Acting Media & Communications Executive, tel 01483 795469, email rachel.thomson@surreywt.org.uk

Picture: Volunteers help tidy up - this image has been granted for use only in association with this story and Surrey Wildlife Trust; please credit 'Frances Halstead'

1. Surrey Wildlife Trust (SWT) is a registered charity and the only organisation concerned solely with the conservation of all forms of wildlife in Surrey. We manage over 80 sites covering more than 7,600 hectares of Surrey's countryside. In 2002 **Surrey Wildlife Trust** formed a unique partnership with **Surrey County Council** (SCC) and became responsible for managing the Council's entire Countryside Estate, covering some 2,600ha. We currently have over 30,000 members. Further information can be found on our website www.surreywildlifetrust.org

2. SWT shares the vision of a "**Living Landscape**" with its fellow wildlife trusts. Living Landscapes aims to combine existing, and create new, wildlife habitats. It will restore large-scale, ecologically functioning open space networks to enable plants and animals to move and adapt. Living Landscapes will connect existing to new natural areas of wildlife value by creating wildlife corridors and buffer zones. In the countryside our special wildlife sites will be linked mainly across open farmland, and in urban areas via gardens, schools and community recreation grounds.

3. There are 47 individual **Wildlife Trusts** covering the whole of the UK and the Isle of Man and Alderney. All are working for an environment rich in wildlife for everyone. We have more than 800,000 members including 150,000 members of our junior branch [Wildlife Watch](#). Our vision is to create [A Living Landscape](#) and secure [Living Seas](#). We manage around 2,300 nature reserves and every year we advise thousands of landowners and organisations on how to manage their land for wildlife. We also run marine conservation projects around the UK, collecting vital data on the state of our seas and celebrating our amazing marine wildlife. Every year we work with thousands of schools and our nature reserves and visitor centres receive

millions of visitors. Each Wildlife Trust is working within its local communities to inspire people about the future of their area: their own Living Landscapes and Living Seas.

4. The Surrey Greenspace project is a 5 year project based at Surrey Wildlife Trust and supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund. It is supported by Local Councils and other organizations and its aim is to encourage local communities to use and appreciate their local greenspaces.

5. The Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) enables communities to celebrate, look after and learn more about our diverse heritage. From our great museums and historic buildings to local parks and beauty spots or recording and celebrating traditions, customs and history, HLF grants open up our nation's heritage for everyone to enjoy. Since 1994 it has supported more than 26,000 projects, allocating over £4 billion across the UK.

www.hlf.org.uk