

# STONECLOUGH COMMUNITY WOODLAND IMPROVEMENT

## PROJECT NEWSLETTER

### Community Opportunity

There is a great opportunity to improve a small local woodland.

It is behind Prestolee Primary School and next to the recently improved canal towpath. You can get there on foot from Church Road, Riverside Drive or the towpath.

### Present Condition



The site was once the garden of a large house belonging to Irwell Bank Mill. But dead trees, saplings, brambles, overgrown vegetation and litter on this land create a poor habitat and getting around the site is difficult.

### Plans for Improvement

The Primary School, Cubs, Scouts, Explorers Groups, Zac's Youth Bars, Stoneclough Community Centre, Holiday Club, Manchester Bolton & Bury Canal Society and other local voluntary groups want to improve access to this land and the quality and diversity of its habitat.

It is a place where local voluntary groups, families and individuals can develop new skills, learn about and enjoy the local environment and wildlife.

The initial plans (shown overleaf), are to survey and uncover what is on the site, create paths to give safe access around the site and to the canal towpath.

We aim to plant native trees, shrubs and bulbs, and create a dry hedge from coppiced branches.

*Wherever possible we will keep and improve existing features.*

Tree work will start in mid-March. The site may be fenced off for safety reasons from April to May whilst these improvements take place and it will then re-open to the public.

*Existing footpath access will stay open for most of the time.*

### Funding, Support & Community Involvement

Grant money has already been obtained from central government, and there is also funding from Kearsley Area Forum, Bolton at Home, Prestolee Academy Trust and the Canal Society.

We hope that local voluntary groups and residents will help to make these improvements. Lancashire Wildlife Trust Contracts Team will project manage the work.

*We will need volunteers to maintain this "Green Space" in the long term.*



### Your Ideas & Involvement

You can help to shape these plans and support these improvements.  
 Please tell your friends, family and neighbours.  
 Get involved at any time and lend a hand for an hour or more.

Please turn up on any of the following days:

**March:** Saturday 16<sup>th</sup>, Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup>

**April:** Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup>, Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> & Sunday 14<sup>th</sup>, Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup>  
 Easter Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> (Egg Hunt for volunteers)

We should be on site from 10.30am to 3pm, depending on the weather conditions.

Please email the Project Manager Steve Cowell at [scowell@lancswt.org.uk](mailto:scowell@lancswt.org.uk) to ask questions, offer help or give your ideas.

*Your local councillors, Julie Pattison, Liam Irving and Mark Cunningham have been involved in these proposals and support the idea of improving this land to benefit the local community.*