



Jeskyns - a space ready for change?

Summer 2009

Jeskyns as a Community Woodland, is now two years old and growing well. However, it is going to be some years before it really starts to look it's best. Perhaps 20, 50 or even 100 years! It really is a green investment for the future, one from which our future generations should reap the most benefit.

However, in an age where experts are becoming increasingly concerned about Climate Change what issues might Jeskyns be facing in the future?

General consensus now is that, as a result of increased greenhouse gas emissions, our climate is gradually warming. This means warmer, drier summers and milder but wetter winters.

Experts predict that by the 2050's we could be experiencing a climate more like that currently seen in France.

Here at Jeskyns, we have planted a special block of trees called our "**Forest of the Future**". This forest contains some species that are likely to be more



Photo courtesy of Tim Barnes

resilient to hotter and drier climates. Some of these species, including small leaved lime and hornbeam, are native to the British Isles, but some non-native species such as walnut and oriental spruce, have also been planted.

Scientists from Forest Research will be monitoring the trees in our "**Forest of the Future**" to identify their strengths and failures. Their findings will help to inform plans for planting new trees and woodlands across the public forest estate in England. There are several Forestry Commission research plots of this nature planted across the UK.

Trees, woods and forests can provide part of the solution to limiting climate change, and to helping society adapt to the changes we all face. However, at the same time, we must act now to help them adapt to the challenges that they will face.

It is hoped that the Jeskyns "**Forest of the Future**" will play a small role in helping scientists to do just that.

Further information can be found at: www.forestry.gov.uk/climatechange



Jeskyns Grove



Jeskyns Woods



Jeskyns Meadows



Jeskyns Orchards



Jeskyns Glades

To find out more information please contact:

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www.forestry.gov.uk/jeskyns



Titch talks...

Hi, my name's Titch. The Ranger has kindly given me some space in the newsletter to talk all things doggy...



"Well, Jeskyns certainly is a great place for us dogs - lots of space, loads of fresh air, the odd stinky thing to roll in - dog heaven! I see that most of our humans are doing a great job at clearing up our "you know what's" and generally keeping us in good order but unfortunately some are still letting the side down!

The other day I watched my - not so bright but very friendly - labrador mate Alfie, go charging up to a little toddler. He only wanted to say hello but he scared the life out of the little mite! Probably put him off us dogs for life!

Unfortunately Alfie's human seemed oblivious to what was going on as he was busy talking into one of those black box things you humans often stick up to your ears. He didn't even check the litt'lun was ok! Needless to say the child's mum was very angry!

So this is a doggy plea to all of our humans out there. You might think that we are sappy, loveable hunks of fluff but we can be intimidating and even dangerous to other visitors especially if running about uncontrollably.

By keeping us under close control and being considerate to other visitors you are helping to ensure that Jeskyns remains dog friendly - and that can only be a good thing in my eyes!"

Dog developments - what do you think?

Well, as Titch's story demonstrates, we are still unfortunately receiving a high number of dog-related complaints at Jeskyns.

Most of these are focussed upon the following issues:

- Dogs not being kept under proper control
- Owners not clearing up after their pets

In an effort to address the issues we have consulted with a wide range of visitors and experts. Since the start of 2009 we have also installed 4 extra dog waste bins across site and held 3 Pet Pit Stops to try and spread the "Responsible Dog Ownership" message to all visitors.



We are now considering the following further measures:

1. Zoning Jeskyns to provide "Dogs on Leads" and "Dogs off Leads" areas. These will hopefully make the busiest areas of Jeskyns safer for all visitors especially small children and the elderly.

2. Creation of a fenced dog exercise/training area. This will be a safe, secure area for owners to be able to practice off lead recall training without fear of their dog not returning.

3. Creation of a range of guidance for visitors with dogs. This is likely to take the format of a leaflet, maps and posters - this should provide clear information and guidance for visitors with dogs.

It is important that we fully consider all options and their likely impacts, so developments are not likely to be immediate. If you would like to comment on any of the above measures or have ideas of your own that you think may be useful, then please do contact us on the details below.

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Visitor Gallery

There seems to be a lot of keen photographers amongst our Jeskyns visitors! Many of you regularly send us photos that you have taken during your visits.

We love receiving them, as it is always interesting for us to get a glimpse of Jeskyns through our visitor's eyes. They are also a great way of recording how Jeskyns is developing and changing with the seasons.



Above: Burnet Moths by Deborah Norris

We have now devoted the reverse of our notice board in the car park as a Visitor Photo Gallery so that we can display as many as possible. So if you have a photo that you would like to share with others why not email it to us?



Above: Wildflowers by David Ware

In the meantime, we have included some here in the newsletter to give you an idea of the types of great shots many of you are capturing.



Above: Cow - by Ron Poulter

Many of you have found our cows and sheep at Jeskyns an inspiration for some great photos!



Above: Sunset by Paul Kirby

The "wide skies" at Jeskyns give great opportunities for moonlit and sunset shots.



Above: Moonlit Apples by Tim Barnes

Thank you to all our contributors and don't stop sending us your photos!

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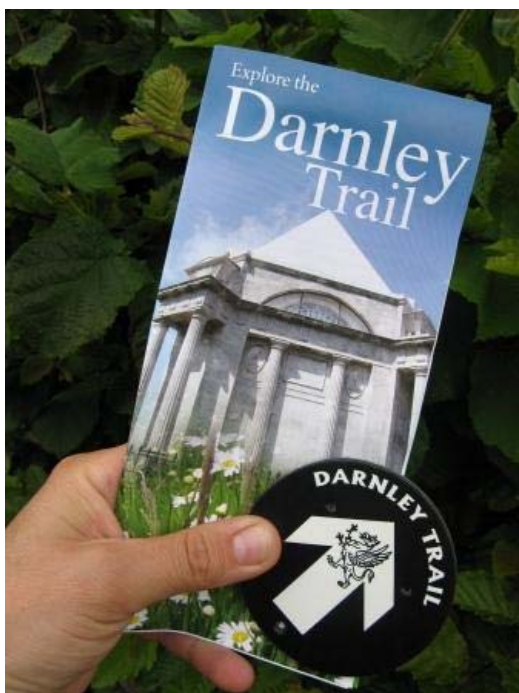
 **Forestry Commission**
England

Discovering the Darnley Trail

The Cobham and Shorne areas contain some of the most stunning countryside that you will find in north Kent and the brand new Darnley Trail is an excellent way of exploring it all.

This is a circular route for pedestrians, cyclists and equestrians that links Jeskyns with four other local sites:

- Shorne Woods Country Park
- Ashenbank Wood
- Ranscombe Farm
- Cobham Woods and Mausoleum



This 10km trail takes you through ancient woodland, over 400 years old and home to some of Kent's biggest trees. Travel through open grassland with towering veteran trees scattered along the horizon; acres of coppice woodland filled with bluebells in the springtime and newly planted orchards and wildflower meadows.

Look for the waymarkers at Jeskyns to pick up the trail or collect a route map from Shorne Woods Country Park.

Horse box parking is available from Shorne Woods Country Park by arrangement call: 01474 823800

What can I get involved with?

Want to find out about countryside walks, talks and events in the area? Look no further...

Jeskyns:

Moth Madness (FREE)

Fri 21st Aug 09. 7pm – 9:30pm

Night time family orientated event. Children's craft activities & story telling. Bring your own jam jar to make a lantern.

Booking essential: 01474 825118

Guided walk (FREE)

Wed 26th Aug 09. 10:30am – 12noon

Join the ranger for a leisurely stroll and discover how the Forestry Commission has taken inspiration from the past to create the Jeskyns of today.

Meet: main car park.

Shorne Woods Country Park:

Archaeology in the Park (FREE)

Sun 6th Sep 09. 2pm - 4pm.

Join the Community Archaeologist on a guided walk to discover the heritage features of the park and artefact handling. Booking required: 01474 823800

Half-term Activity Trail (£2 per sheet)

Sat 24th Oct - Sun 1st Nov 09. 10am - 3pm.

Follow the clues, answer the questions and complete trails to win a prize.

Ranscombe Farm:

A Working Farm - Guided Walk (FREE)

Sat 12th Sep 09. 1pm - 4pm.

Join the tenant farmer on a guided tour of Ranscombe to find out how farming has shaped the landscape we see today. Booking required: 01474 824180

Beyond Ranscombe - Guided Walk (FREE)

Sun 20th Sep 09. 10am.

Join the Ranscombe Warden for an extended tour of the reserve and its neighbouring countryside. Booking required: 01634 242826

If you need this publication in an alternative format such as large print or in another language, please contact:

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