

Winner of The Tree Council Trees & Learning Award: Transforming Well Wood

The award was given for the engagement of children through interactive woodland workshops, logo design for the woodland trail, improved access and tree planting works.

Thomas Thorn from Friends of Well Wood said "Well Wood's fortunes have turned a corner. Through grants and community involvement, the woodland ecology and infrastructure has improved benefiting the wildlife and the many visitors who hold this place so dear in their hearts. We are overjoyed to receive this award and hope the project shows other groups, what can be achieved"



The Friends of Well Wood receiving their award from Pauline Buchanan Back (The Tree Council Director General), Matthew Pencharz (The Mayor's Senior Environment Advisor) and Ian Gambles (Forestry Commission England Director) at the awards evening on the 28th May.

With 7 year olds designing a woodland trail for families, scouts planting hundreds of trees, and teachers empowered to use the woodland habitat in their teaching, "Transforming Well Wood" is a project inspired by the local community with young people at the heart of positive change.

The Friends of Well Wood are a small volunteer group working to improve the environmental quality of the wood. This year we worked in partnership with LB Bromley to secure funding from the RE:LEAF community grant scheme and Transport for London LIP to improve access and infrastructure, improve the woodland structure, and to involve young people in that change.

The new entrances with better buggy-friendly access, new signage and interpretation with path surfacing improvements throughout the Wood will improve the



Friends of Well Wood

visitor experience and encourage more families to use the wood. The woodland blocks have been thinned extensively and the over stood chestnut re-coppiced, increasing structural diversity and improving the ground flora for wildlife to thrive. The wood harvested from this has been used for projects around the borough. Consequently LB Bromley was able to sell its first lot of timber since the 1970's generating a revenue for future work at Well Wood.

Involving young people and learning opportunities

It was important for us to actively involve young people in the improvements of their local wood. School children really enjoyed attending the interactive woodland workshops to learn about and discover their wood. They designed a new walking trail with a bright, colourful trail logo to give families a starting point to explore the woodland.



Kyle Stevens- of year 6 from Wickham Common Primary School - receiving his award for his winning trail marker design (below - tidied up by the designer).



8th West Wickham Scout Group helping to plant trees

Teachers attended a twilight training session for ideas, support and resources to encourage them to continue using the wood.

We also were able to fund two teachers to attend Forest School training to ensure the connection children have with their wood continues in the future.

The Scouts from 8th West Wickham helped our group to plant hundreds of native tree whips to increase species and structural diversity.

Further information

- The [RE:LEAF Partnership](#). The 2014 Awards were organised by the Forestry Commission and Mayor of London, with support from a range of RE:LEAF partners
- Friends of Well Wood and community forestry initiatives in Bromley, contact Pherenice.worsey-buck@bromley.gov.uk for further information.
- This Award was sponsored by [The Tree Council](#) including a prize of £300 to be used by the Friends of Well Wood for the engagement of children in their work with trees.