

Wood you believe it?



Beautiful, unspoiled and covering about four acres, Stock's Wood, near Selly Manor and Minworth Greaves, is adjacent to Maple Road, Acacia Road and the Wyevale Garden Centre.

"Owned and cared for by BVT and managed to conserve its value as a wildlife amenity, the wood has some fine mature trees including ash, oak, beech, hornbeam, lime, cherry, horse chestnut, birch, rowan, poplar, hazel, holly and yew. There's also a spectacular display of bluebells and patches of wood anemone each spring," BVT Tree Warden, Ron Gowing, told Outlook.

The wood's value is recognised by the Birmingham City Council through its official designation as a 'Site of Interest for Nature Conservation'. Where it is safe, dead timber is left to provide a habitat for insects and other invertebrates; trees provide roosts for bats and nest sites for birds including tawny owls and woodpeckers.

"The wood is normally kept closed

because open access would necessitate tree surgery for safety reasons, which would destroy a significant part of the wood's wildlife value. Enclosing it keeps it in excellent condition and a delight to see," said Ron.

The wood is shown on the Tithe map dated about 1840 and its current name of Stock's Wood appears on the Ordnance Survey map dated 1884. Maps from 1904 onwards have named it Camp Wood, which is the name you will find on a current A-Z map.

"The name Stock's Wood commemorates a family who sold land to George Cadbury to make up part of the Bournville Estate in 1899. A Captain Stock buried his favourite horse in the wood and for some time a memorial stone marked the spot. The name Camp Wood appears to be linked with the Civil War when Prince Rupert's army was camped in the area," added Ron.

If you have any information, stories or memories of Stock's Wood, Ron Gowing would love to hear from you. Alternatively, if you would like to know more about what BVT Tree Wardens do, please get in touch with him on 0121 471 4445.

Persimmon's part and parcel



The first parcel of land at Lightmoor, Telford has been sold to Persimmon Homes. Beginning in 2005, Persimmon will build 40 homes on the land from which BVT will take ten for social renting. Pictured at the hand-over, with a representative from Persimmon Homes and English Partnerships is BVT Operational Services and Project Director, John McNulty (right).

Where to go for advice and help when dealing with debts

CONTACT YOUR CREDITORS... if you want to make arrangements to pay.

COUNCIL TAX: Visit Council Tax Offices, 7 Waterloo Street, Birmingham B2 5PG. For contact information, see your council tax bill.

ELECTRICITY: Npower, George Road, Erdington, Birmingham B23 7QJ. Tel: 0845 714 5146

GAS: British Gas. Admail AA3119, Southampton SO1 ONU. Gas Enquiries: Tel: 0845 609 1122. Electricity Enquiries: Tel: 0845 7888 400.

WATER CHARGES: Severn Trent Water, 20 Lionel Street, Birmingham B3 1AQ. Charges: Tel: 0845 7 500 500. South Staffordshire Water Plc, P.O. Box 63, Walsall WS2 7PJ. Tel: 0845 6070456.

FINES: Victoria Law Courts, Corporation Street, Birmingham B4 6QA. Tel: 0121 212 6666.

COUNTY COURT PROCEEDINGS: Birmingham County Court, 33 Bull Street, Birmingham B4 6DS. Tel: 0121 681 4441.

ORGANISATIONS THAT CAN HELP IF YOU HAVE FUEL BILLS, CREDIT DEBTS, OR ARE GOING TO COURT ...

ELECTRICITY & GAS: Contact Energy Watch on 0845 9 06 07 08.

WATER CHARGES (OFWAT): Contact Office of Water Services on 0121 644 5252.

TELEPHONE (OFTEL): Contact Office of Telecommunications on 0845 714 5000.

HELP AT COURT: Contact the Court Welfare Officer who can represent you at Possession proceedings on 0121 681 3125 (an answering machine operates at busy times)

DEBT ADVICE TEAM: 0121 303 2087 Mon-Fri 9am-4pm (an answering machine operates outside of these hours)

NEIGHBOURHOOD OFFICES: for your local office look in the phone book or contact 0121 303 9944 (main switchboard).

BIRMINGHAM MONEY ADVICE AND GRANTS: 138 Digbeth, Birmingham B5 6DR. Tel: 0121-643 4343.

THE CONSUMER CENTRE: 155/157 Corporation Street, Birmingham B4 6PH. Tel: 0121 303 6031.

CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU: City Centre Bureau, Corporation Street, Birmingham B4 6AJ. Tel: 0121 236 5977.

CONSUMER CREDIT COUNSELLING SERVICE: 3rd Floor, 21 Bennetts Hill, Birmingham B2 5QP. Tel: 0800 138 1111.

ORGANISATIONS THAT CAN HELP IF YOU ARE AN OLDER PERSON, DISABLED, SEPARATED OR HAVE HOUSING PROBLEMS

AGE CONCERN: advice for the older person. 181 Corporation Street, Birmingham B4 6RG. Tel: 0121 236 2197.

SHELTER: advice for those with housing problems. Ruskin Chambers, 191 Corporation Street, Birmingham B4 6RP. Tel: 0845 120 3711

(Tues & Thurs 10am-1pm and 2pm-5pm) (Fri 10am-1pm and 2pm-4.30pm). 24-hour emergency line: 0808 800 4444 (free if you phone from a land line, charges will apply if you call from a mobile phone).

RELATE: advice for the separated and divorced. Bishops Gate House, 11 Bishops Gate Street, Birmingham B15 1ET. Tel: 0121 643 1638

INFORMATION SERVICE ON DISABILITY: advice for the disabled. West Midlands Rehabilitation Centre, 91 Oak Tree Lane, Selly Oak, Birmingham B29 6JA. Tel: 0121 627 8610 (offices open 9am-4pm).

Want the power to shower?



Tenants are increasingly requesting permission from BVT to plumb showers into their homes.

Whilst we understand that to bath or shower is a personal preference, we always install a bath in a property designed for two or more people, unless it is under the direct instruction of an Occupational Therapist.

We require a written request from any tenants who wish to install their own electric or power shower. If permission is granted it would be with the condition that the shower is no greater than 8.5kw and that the tenant accepts responsibility for the future maintenance of the shower and its associated fittings.

In addition, all electrical work must be undertaken by a competent, qualified electrician and all plumbing work by a competent qualified plumber.

