



# Jersey Farm Woodland Park

The 55 acres of the Woodland Park are all that remain of the 308 acre Evans Farm, itself just a part of the old Marshalswick Estate which dated back to monastic times.

As Jersey Farm - the name taken from the Jersey dairy herd belonging to Dr. Corner in the mid 20th century - it provided milk for the neighbourhood at 1/2d a pint!

The Woodland Park owes its existence to the local group headed by Bill Morris who formed the Major Open Spaces Preservation Association, (MOSPA), which saved it from being developed as a school sports ground with floodlit playing fields, and their hard work is celebrated in the naming of Bill's Wood. The area now provides a wonderful public space and a habitat for numerous varieties of plants and animals as illustrated on the two species recognition boards. *(See map overleaf for their positions.)*

Perhaps the most endearing of residents is the skylark, nesting in the long grasses but climbing higher and higher in flight, offering its exultant song.

The swath of meadowland is surrounded and interspersed with woods dating from 1991, when the first phase of planting was both funded and carried out by the local community. Sandridge Parish Council took on management of the Park in 1999 and now maintains the woods and meadows for the community, nurturing this green lung for the future.

Design and illustration: www.samanthasjmonds.co.uk

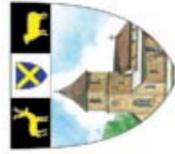
## Getting there



St. Alban's City & District



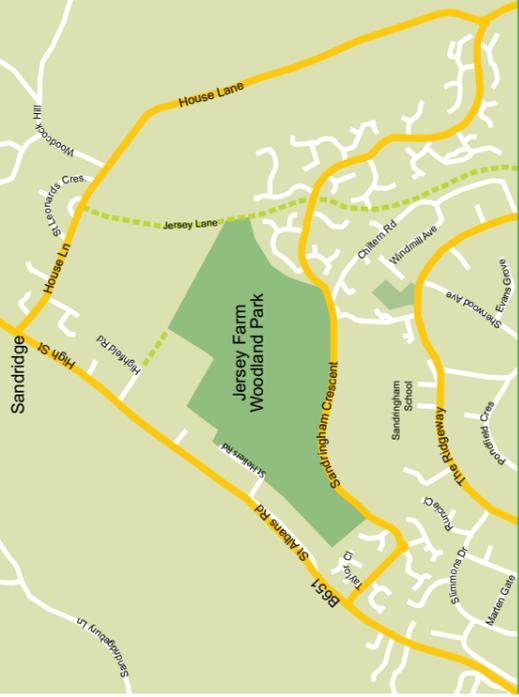
Forest Stewardship Council



Sandridge Parish Council

Jersey Farm Woodland Park is situated a short way off the B651 St. Alban's to Wheathampstead road, just south of Sandridge village. Routes 304/305 and 657 provide a regular bus service from St. Alban's City station along that road or, if travelling by car, access can be gained from Sandringham Crescent on the southern edge of the Woodland Park. The main access points are shown on the map *(see overleaf)* but it should be noted that Jersey Lane is a bridleway, not a roadway.

There's no on site parking or facilities, but there is a car park, a shop and three good pubs in the Village, and along the road at St. Brelade's Place, on Sandringham Crescent.



## WOODLAND

The 10,000 or so trees - mainly planted by volunteers in time for the Millennium - include a mix of hornbeam and horse chestnut, oak, ash, larch, lime, hazel, pine and field maple. They provide a varied home for birds and insects as well as butterflies and mammals together with many varieties of shade tolerant plants.

See the woodland board *(marked on the map)* for a flavour of the diversity.

Coppicing and general maintenance is carried out on a regular basis to preserve a balanced ecology, and the woodland paths and bridleways are maintained using wood chippings from the park.

Some nesting boxes, made by pupils at Sandringham School, have been provided to shelter and protect smaller breeding birds.

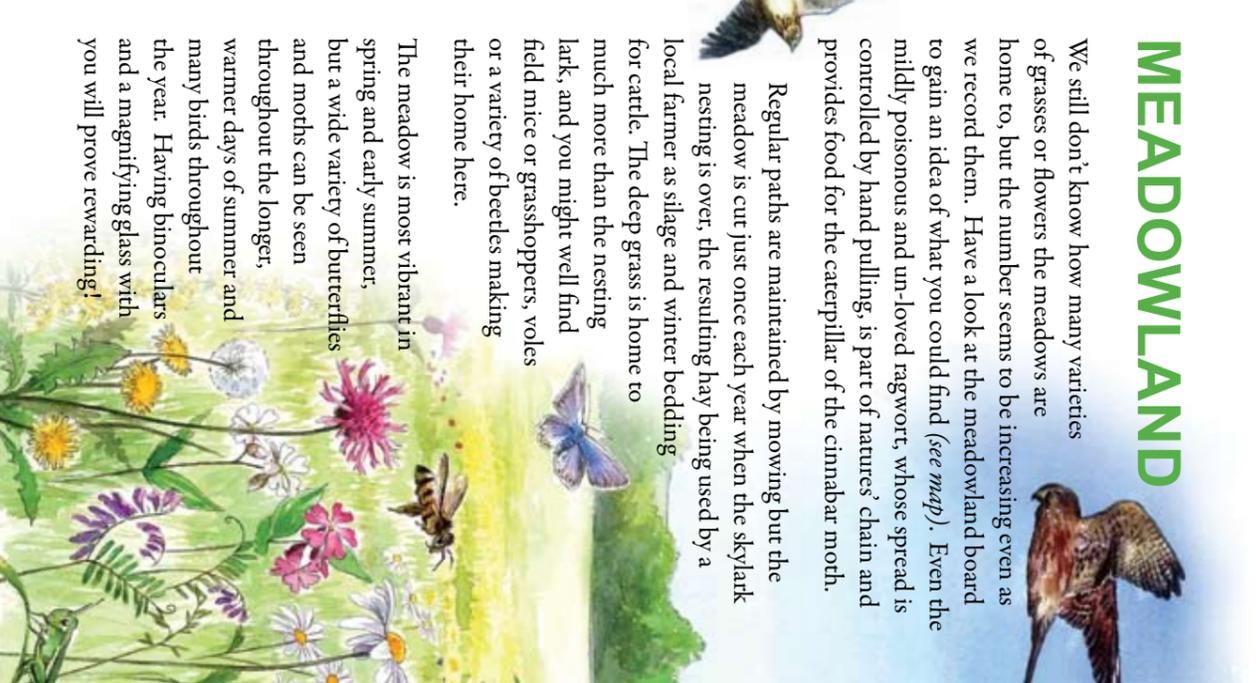


## MEADOWLAND

We still don't know how many varieties of grasses or flowers the meadows are home to, but the number seems to be increasing even as we record them. Have a look at the meadowland board to gain an idea of what you could find *(see map)*. Even the mildly poisonous and un-loved ragwort, whose spread is controlled by hand pulling, is part of nature's chain and provides food for the caterpillar of the cinnabar moth.

Regular paths are maintained by mowing but the meadow is cut just once each year when the skylark nesting is over, the resulting hay being used by a local farmer as silage and winter bedding for cattle. The deep grass is home to much more than the nesting lark, and you might well find field mice or grasshoppers, voles or a variety of beetles making their home here.

The meadow is most vibrant in spring and early summer, but a wide variety of butterflies and moths can be seen throughout the longer, warmer days of summer and many birds throughout the year. Having binoculars and a magnifying glass with you will prove rewarding!



- Protecting the wildlife
- Considering the needs of other visitors
- Taking litter away with you
- Not starting fires or having barbecues
- Keeping dogs under control
- Making use of the dog bins provided

*In the spring and early summer certain areas provide shelter for the nesting larks; please be especially careful so they won't be disturbed.*

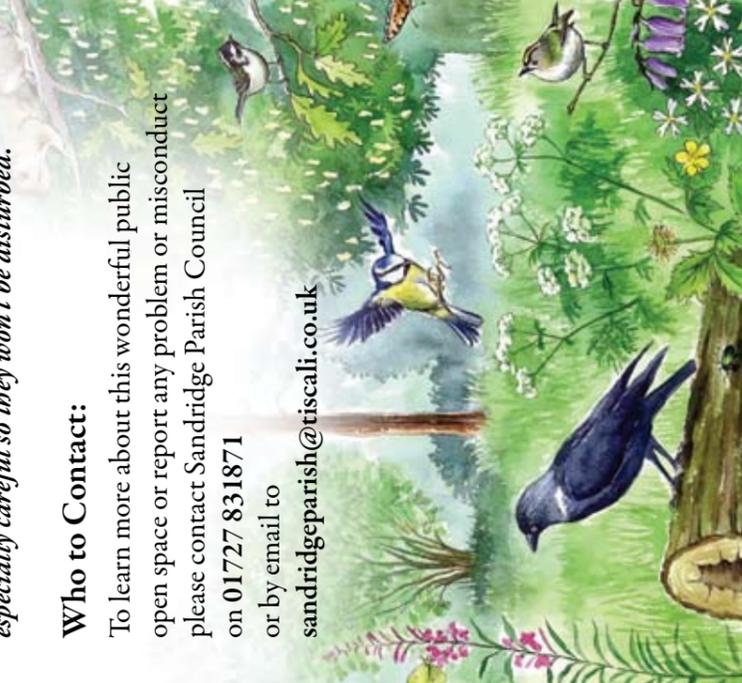
### Who to Contact:

To learn more about this wonderful public open space or report any problem or misconduct please contact Sandridge Parish Council

on **01727 831871**

or by email to

[sandridgeparish@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:sandridgeparish@tiscali.co.uk)



# Jersey Farm Woodland Park

Rising from around 90 to 110 metres, (290 to 360 feet), the geology of the area that includes our 22.4 hectare, (55 acre) Jersey Farm Woodland Park is chalk bedrock overlaid by clay with flint. Oddly, though farmed for centuries no significant archaeological finds have been made or encampments discovered, but the land must have had countless footfalls over the centuries, human and animal.

Since 1991 when the Mayor of St. Alban's planted the first tree, about 3.2 kilometres (2 miles) of bridleway and foot path have been established and maintained and something over 10,000 trees planted, including the wood to celebrate the Millennium and an elm in memory of Princess Diana.

Events held here include celebrations in 2014 to mark the 900th anniversary of St. Leonard's, our parish church; in 2012 the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and a Cavalcade in 2000 to mark the Millennium. On a more sombre note a memorial site has been formed for the Burma Star Association and V. J. Day is commemorated each August for and by local veterans.

