



A "Charm" of Goldfinches



Sweet Chestnut *Castanea sativa*

Native to Europe and naturalised in the British Isles, the Sweet Chestnut was introduced during the Roman occupation (1st- 4th century A.D.). Latin *sativa* means cultivated by humans. A long lasting deciduous tree living for 700 years or more. A giant Sweet Chestnut in Penshurst, Kent measures 104 ft with a circumference of 52 ft. After coppicing 300 years ago, seven substantial stems developed resulting in the name 'Seven Sisters'.

Male and female flowers are both carried by each tree (monoecious) in long upright catkins. The male flowers in the upper part and the female in the lower part which are then insect pollinated develop in late June to July. A tree germinated from seed may take 20 years before developing fruit, but a grafted cultivar can produce fruit within 5 years.

A coppiced Sweet Chestnut produces a crop of tannin rich wood every 12 - 30 years. The bark has been used as a source of vegetable tannin used for tanning leather in many countries including the UK for many years.



Chestnuts formed a large part of the Roman diet either roasted or ground into flour. It is alleged that during their many campaigns the Romans and Alexander the Great planted chestnut trees throughout Europe, the Romans made a sweet chestnut porridge eaten before going into battle. In Corsica sweet chestnuts were once used as a currency.



Birch Shieldbug
Elasmotethus interstinctus

After cutting David removes the arisings to maintain low nutrient levels in the soil

Kempshott Conservation Group AGM

**Kempshott Village Hall Sunday 19th October 2014
at 2:30pm**

2014/5 Subscriptions are due now £3:00 per family

Work Parties for October & November 2014 The start of a new season

Date	Meeting Point
Sunday 12 th October	Down Grange Meadow Homestead Road interpretation board
Thursday 23 rd October	Old Orchard. Kendal Gardens.
Sunday 2 nd November	The Old Hedgerow. Footpath between Coniston Road & Down Grange, behind 77-155 Coniston Road.
Thursday 13 th November	Down Grange Meadow. As above

Times: - Sunday's 10:00 - 12:00. Thursday's 14:00 – 16:00.

If you would like to join us for the first time please ring Marion on 470171.

Please bring work gloves, tools are provided.

Contact us:- By e-mail on kempshott-serve@tiscali.co.uk or via the website www.kempshotconservationgroup.org.uk. For anything that requires urgent action, such as fallen trees on any of our sites please contact Marion Wolstencroft on 470171