

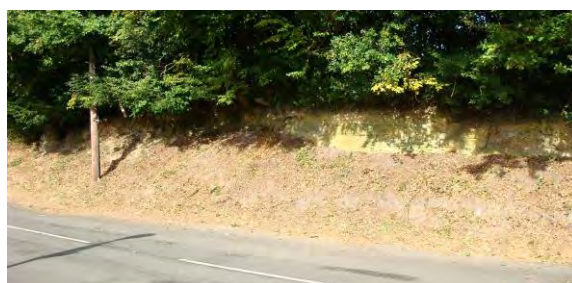
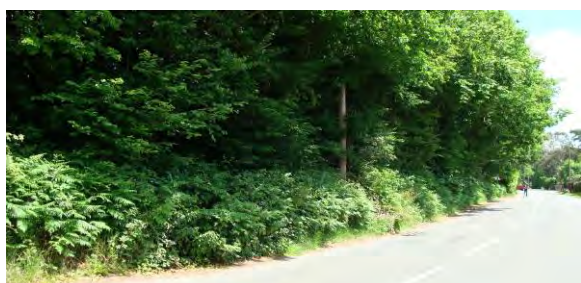
ASHURST WOOD CONSERVATION GROUP



Newsletter 2010

The wild meadow raking last year was so much easier, due to it being dry and not so long – the yellow rattle is definitely working, weakening the grass allowing the native wild flowers to multiply

The exposure of the sandstone looks so much better; we have had so much praise from other villagers. Did you notice a few bluebells on the bank this spring? Hopefully these will spread. There is a small piece left to tackle which we hope to complete in October.



The making of the Christmas wreaths was a lovely dry event although it poured with rain outside. What a better way to spend a Sunday morning in November with friends and learning something new. These were sold at the Village's 1st Christmas market. We made £216.50 on produce that we made, (mainly wreaths). This year we hope to build on this and offer other Christmas decorations. We already have an order/list for the wreaths! Don't miss out. The early bird catches the worm as they say. Hence 2 task days in November – remember all training is given. You might learn something new and make other friends. We also had 12 new memberships join, with one of them being a volunteer, Beth. Please help spread the word. You don't have to be a volunteer to be a member of our Conservation Group.

At last year's AGM we had a quiz where Marion won the hedgerow jelly. As the 'fish and chips voucher' wasn't won on the tombola at the village fair, we 'raffled' it to the volunteers at the December task day while we were sipping mulled wine and eating sausage rolls and mince pies. Marion's number came in; this was a great year for her!

In December, as the tree (Poplar) opposite John Pear's field had fallen down, we cleared the logs and tidied the area as well as burning all the vegetation from the Hammerwood's sandstone exposure.

January we thinned out the copse on John Pear's field by the car park. This always looks so much better when it has been thinned.

The last copse by the pavilion will be hopefully thinned on December's task day.

Feb/March saw us back down the 'Old Cellars'. Logs are being left as bug wood now; too far to get them out, and hopefully the kids won't use them all to make camps!

We had the annual spring clean in conjunction with the parish council and BTCV 'BIG TIDY UP'. The village always looks great after this event. Karen won the booby prize with her find – The steering wheel!

May we had our 'jolly' in a shape of a walk to wet wood. It certainly kept up to its name. 7 hardy souls ventured out in the pouring rain. Cream teas were very well earned. We did see lots of native spring flowers.

July the vegetation was cut back on the footpath between Water Farm Lane to Thornhill Road. This was a very hot day and the volunteers were treated to ice cream and lollies after. Well done!

Remember our wildlife – leave a bit messy in a corner, it doesn't have to be big. Every little bit you can do for wildlife like feed the birds, Water - be it a pond, bird bath or even a bowl, planting native flowers, flowers that are rich in pollen for the bees/butterflies, even growing your own vegetables, fruit trees /bushes. Everything helps our wildlife. I have just had a smooth snake in my garden – I take that as a compliment, must be doing something right! Go on give it a try, your garden doesn't have to be big, everything helps.



Dates for your Diary

2010

5th September	John Pears Field	Raking of wild flower meadow
3rd October	Hammerwood Road	Exposing of Sandstone
21st & 28th November	John Pears Pavilion	Making of Christmas wreaths and table decorations
3rd December	Christmas Market	Stall
5th December	John Pears field	Tree thinning – big bonfire – Christmas feast

2011

2nd January	Old Cellars	Restoration of Wood
6th February	Old Cellars	Restoration of Wood
6th March	Old Cellars	Restoration of Wood
3rd April	Village Centre Annual Litter pick with Parish Council and BTCV	
? June	Mayfield – Walk Learn about the High Weald and how it all began	
2nd July	John Pears Field	Summer fete
3rd July	Footpath vegetation clearing	
? July	Bat walk	

The task days are normally held on the 1st Sunday of the month 10.am meet until 3.pm
Please wear old clothes, stout boots and bring a drink. If you are staying all day bring a
packed lunch. Cakes are normally provided.

AGM – 20th October 7pm – John Pears Pavilion – Subs are due £3.00

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