

ASHURST WOOD CONSERVATION GROUP



Last September we raked and removed the wild meadow. Due to the extreme rain this was very hard work. Great for the stomach! The volunteers did a fantastic job and worked really well. This was stacked very high in the corner to provide habitat to small rodents/mammals. This has now rotted down next to nothing, ready to be built up again this year.



We had a great success with the screen thinning on John pear's field. It took 2 tasks days December/January. We also had our 'Christmas feast' with mulled wine and mince pies. February we had a display in the Library Window in East Grinstead. February/March we started tackling the holly down the Old Cellar's. We have made good progress even in the snow! The timber has been stacked in the field next door and will be shared out between the volunteers. We also planted new beech trees.

April we had a litter pick, this time in conjunction with the Parish Council. It was held in the afternoon to allow those wishing to attend church to help. We collected 20 bags of rubbish. This was under the BIG TIDY UP and BTCV. The village looked so much better for this. As this was a success we are hoping to repeat this next year. We had 33 volunteers for this project. There were rock cakes and tea after. Even our PCSO George helped out.

Our jolly this year was a Spring Walk. We met in the afternoon and covered 4 miles. Walked in some of the best countryside. The best bit was the bluebell wood. What a scent and the colour – amazing. Finishing with a cream tea at John Pear's pavilion.

June we had a tombola stall at our 1st major village fair in 12 years. We also had our boards up displaying what we have achieved so far – quite a lot. We managed to get 11 new members.

Please help spread the word. You don't have to be a volunteer to be a member of our Conservation Group. The money does help towards our insurance.

July saw the 1st stage of Hammerwood road Sandstone exposure – the bottom stones you



can now see. We will be working here to do the next stage in October/November. We are going to have a stall/table at our 1st village Christmas market on Friday 4th December 2009. We will make wreaths and table decorations to sell. (these will be made in advance)

As our wildlife has been having such a tough time recently – please help to do your bit by leaving a piece of your garden (it doesn't have to be huge) to go wild and a bit messy. Try a few logs that have been stacked, it doesn't have to be high. Some leaves scattered or in a pile. Obviously the bigger the better. If you wish to plant wild flowers remember that it is illegal to dig them up from the countryside.

On John Pear's field we did sow native wild flower seeds from within the ANOB and the high weald area. If you would like some more information on how to achieve a wild patch in your garden please talk to Tanya or Ceri.

Dates for your Diary

2009

6 th September	John Pear's field	Raking of wild flower meadow
4 th October	Hammerwood Road	Exposing of Sandstone
1 st November	Hammerwood Road	Exposing of Sandstone
29 th November	John Pear's pavilion	Making of Christmas wreaths and table decorations
4 th December	Christmas Market	Stall
6 th December	John Pear's field	Tree thinning – big bonfire – Christmas feast

2010

3 rd January	Old Cellars	Restoration of Wood
7 th February	Old Cellars	Restoration of Wood
7 th March	Old Cellars	Restoration of Wood
4 th April	Village Centre	Litter pick 2pm
2 nd May	Jolly	(to be announced)

The task days are 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 staying all day a packed lunch.
Cakes are normally provided.

AGM – 18th October – Subs are due £3.00

Contacts: Chairman	Tanya	01342 824431
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