

# ASHURST WOOD CONSERVATION GROUP



## NEWSLETTER – JULY 2008

In **September** last year we cleared 3 footpaths in the village by cutting back vegetation, picking up litter and generally widening the path back to what it used to be. This was a great success.



**October** we sowed the seeds in John Pear's field for our Wild Meadow area.

For the winter months we were down in the Woods – 'The Old Cellars' cutting down the Silver Birch. This area is now looking much better since we have been working on it, the bluebells are starting to spread over the site. The logs have now been stacked with the help of Marion in the adjoining field. These will be shared out between the volunteers – if you would like some please let Catherine know, telephone 01342 822311.

In **December**, we were rained off for our Christmas do – so we met up for a few hours at the garage and had mince pies and mulled wine in the dry which was rather fun.



In **January** on a cold and wet afternoon Mike, Gillian, Marion, Sharon and Tanya planted 75 whips on John Pear's field.

Due to work commitments Angie has had to step down as secretary so we now have Catherine Watkins to take over the reins as Secretary instead.

**April** we got snowed off on our 1<sup>st</sup> Village Spring Clean but we did make a new friend – sadly the friendship didn't last! A week later, in true British form, we were back and we managed to clear the Village of 6 black sacks of rubbish (4 of which were recycled).



The bird walk in **May** was a fantastic success. Although less numbers than last year and a much earlier start (8am) we had so many birds – 33 seen of which we also heard 27. We saw a Kestrel and Buzzard to name a few. Look on the website (via link [www.ashurstwoodparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.ashurstwoodparishcouncil.gov.uk)) to get a full list. We ended the trip, at the School for refreshments - and had a great surprise, the School has a bird box with a camera in and we were treated to seeing a blue tit sitting on 8 eggs! – Who needs Bill Oddie and Nature Watch when you have it right here in our Village!!

If you have time it's worth a walk to John Pear's field to see what has come up on the Wild Meadow area. Remember you might need to go several times during the summer as not all the flowers come at once.

#### Dates for Diary

The task days are held on the first Sunday of the month 10.00am meet

**July** - Footpath clearing around the Village Meet Old Cellars

**August** - No meeting

**September** - John Pear's field Wild Meadow raking

**October** - John Pear's field Screen thinning

**November, December,**

#### **2009**

**January, February, March** Old Cellars meet Primary School at 10am

**April** Village Spring clean 2pm meet Village Centre

**May** Spring - walk 2pm Meet outside Ashurstwood Abbey

AGM - October - Subs due £3. Guest Speaker and refreshments

Contacts: Chairman: Tanya Hayman Tel 01342 824431

Secretary: Catherine Watkins: Tel 01342 822311