



## Newsletter June 2006

We have a mixed bag of news to report so far this year.

- On the plus side, we are happy to say that the council's contractors have mown the meadow areas this spring without being prodded by your committee - a first!
- At least three of the bird boxes have so far been taken this spring and there may be more in use in more inaccessible areas of the woods. Our "birdman" will relocate some in the autumn to better sites.
- We are still receiving favourable comments on the benches and interpretation boards. The boards have been held up as examples for their attractive and informative layout; the district council is to incorporate the information in one of their tourist walk leaflets.
- The committee is applying for grants towards planting more trees; we have identified the need for more trees to replace the ageing woodland. The hundred whips we planted last year were a start to the regeneration process, but we need to plant some larger specimen trees with expert help – hence the grant applications.
- On the minus side, the Japanese knotweed is sprouting vigorously again despite being treated last autumn. Your committee will try to ensure that treatment is applied again before growth is too high.

**Ongoing** – we are in consultation with the county council for permission to place benches and bins on the lower field and will report when we have further news. We continue to monitor progress (or lack of same) on the fire station site.

**Paths** – There are particular areas of the woodland paths that always become boggy in winter. We should like to gouge out those stretches and lay some stones to make a better surface. Does anyone have a mini-digger (and the skill to use it) who could help us? Please contact Peter Cook if you can help.

The last **Action Day** which took place on 12th March incorporated a litter pick. We netted a TV, an oil drum, 2 bicycle wheels, 1 bicycle frame, a fire extinguisher, many bottles and cans - and 2 crutches!

**Wine Tasting** We have had enquiries about another "event" and hope to hold one next year.

**Link with other local community groups.** We hope to meet members from other local groups in the autumn to identify common areas of interest and concern and are liaising with the council.

**Diary date** – Action Day – Sunday 17th September. Look out for notices nearer the time. Everyone is welcome.

There is still time to renew your membership this year - please contact the treasurer.

As always we always welcome your comments or suggestions, and we are always looking for new committee members who would be willing to give a little time to a good local cause.

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