



# Oakley Woodlands Group Newsletter No 51 September 2009



As summer gives way to autumn this is a good time to look back on what has been achieved during the summer and to gear up once again for another winter's activities in our copses.

In June we were asked by Karen Evans-Prosser of B&DBC to give an illustrated talk at the European Sustainability Conference in Alençon. Delegates from France, Germany and Belgium were very impressed by what we have achieved in restoring our "forests" in "the city of Oakley".

We had a very good turn out for our summer work party in July. The weather was good and a lot was achieved.

We were to be seen at the Oakley Village Show once again in August.

Our charcoal burning week in Cowdown produced around twelve bags of charcoal each day. We enjoyed good weather and, as usual, the week ended with a barbeque and a chat around the camp fire. We now have plenty of bags in stock for sale.



Ian, Rita and friends charcoal burning in Cowdown

Our annual "walk in the woods" planning meeting took place in August. We will continue to coppice the coup at the eastern end of Cowdown and we will return to the area where it all started in St. John's in 1997, thus finally completing the coppicing cycle there.

**We are very grateful to everyone who organized and took part in these events.**

## MAMMAL & BUTTERFLY SURVEYS 2010

If you visited our woods during the summer, you might well have been impressed by the variety of butterflies to be seen there. We have been monitoring our population of dormice for many years, but we think it is time to conduct detailed surveys of both butterflies and mammals in our copses. These will take place throughout 2010. We will let you have more information later.

## WORK PARTY LEADERSHIP TRAINING

As you will be aware we are running this event in the Newfound Sports Pavilion at 19.00 on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> September. It is very important that we provide our leaders with the information and help they need to do the job effectively.

*We would be delighted to welcome people from other groups or new members to this event. Please give Brian or Barry a call for further details.*

We have been very fortunate in having a good number of work party leaders since we started back in 1997, but the time has come where we need a few new ones – and we cannot operate without them. **So please become a work party leader. I promise we will provide you with plenty of support while you're getting used to the role.**

Finally, a reminder of work party dates:

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| <b>October</b>  | Wednesday 7 <sup>th</sup> , Saturday 10 <sup>th</sup> ,<br>Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> , Saturday 24 <sup>th</sup> . All in<br>Cowdown   |
| <b>November</b> | Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> , Saturday 7 <sup>th</sup> ,<br>Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> , Saturday 21 <sup>st</sup> . All in<br>St. John's |
| <b>December</b> | Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> , Saturday 5 <sup>th</sup> ,<br>Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> , Saturday 19 <sup>th</sup> . All in<br>Cowdown    |

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