

Action group is set for clear up

■ Villagers lead campaign to save woodland

by Jenni Horn
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RESIDENTS and councillors have banded together to save an area of ancient woodland.

The Bredhurst Woodland Action Group was formed last year to tackle damage caused by off-road vehicles and fly-tipping in Monkdown Wood and Bredhurst.

The campaigners have now received the backing of their local MP and the leader of Kent County Council.

The 600 acres of land are currently designated as a Site of Nature Conservation Interest but residents and councillors say the area has been ruined.

The Bredhurst Woodland Action Group points to drivers abusing the public byway that runs through the ancient woodland and chalk grassland, often



■ Fly-tipping and quad bike damage in Bredhurst woodland

picture: Melanie Fooks

straying onto footpaths and bridleways. This has made the paths virtually unusable and many residents feel too intimidated to use the area.

A spokesman for the BWAG, Vanessa Jones, said: "The paths have been ruined by quad bikes and 4x4 vehicles. The earth has been churned up and the paths are now waterlogged. The whole site has become a no-go area for pedestrians and horse riders."

The group has raised around £15,000 and already completed some restoration and preservation work.

The Bredhurst Woodland Action Group includes parish councillors from the village and surrounding parishes, residents and landowners.

The campaigners presented a petition with more than 1,500 signatures, asking for the land to become a Site of Special Scientific Interest which will give it more protection.

This petition has been handed to Conservative MP Hugh Robertson Kent County Council leader Paul Carter is also lending his support.

The action group is holding its first fly-tipping clearance day on Wednesday and is appealing for volunteers to help.

■ For more information, call Vanessa Jones on 07813785940 or e-mail postmaster@vanessajones.plus.com.

INST-ANT SAVING: Daddy insect surprises customers



A VISIT from a giant ant took customers at Gillingham Post Office by surprise.

The enormous insect, who is the daddy ant in the Post Office adverts, visited the Green Street office to launch a new savings scheme.

The new instant saver account has an interest rate of 4.75 per cent and is available from any branch.

■ For more information please call 0800 1697500 or visit www.postoffice.co.uk

■ A giant creepy-crawlie pays a visit to Gillingham Post Office

copyright: Kathryn Hollingsworth



Free, easy to enter Easter Card competition for children

Thorntons Easter Eggs to be won!

Pick up an entry form from Thorntons or the Lottery Kiosk.

From Friday 7th April a selection of entries will be displayed at the centre in 'The Gallery' to be found adjacent to Boots.

From 13th to 17th April 2006 (excluding Easter Sunday 16th April), the first 100 children visiting 'The Gallery' will be given a free Easter Bunny chocolate lolly.

Closing date: April 18th 2006

EASTER OPENING TIMES

	Centre Opening Hours	Sainsbury's Opening Hours
Good Friday	9.00am – 6.00pm	7.00am – 8.00pm
Easter Saturday	9.00am* – 7.00pm	7.00am – 10.00pm
Easter Sunday	Closed	Closed
Easter Monday	9.00am – 5.00pm	9.00am – 7.00pm
*Marks & Spencer opens at 8.30am		



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We will be holding a recruitment open evening at the Hotel on Wednesday 19th April from 6pm to 8pm in our forest suite. You will have the opportunity to chat to members of our team and a show around the hotel.

The hotel is located at Forstal Road, just off junction 6 of the M20, nearest railway station Maidstone East is approx 1 mile away, 100 yards from nearest bus stop on Royal Engineers Way.