

BWAG Monthly Reports to Bredhurst Parish Council

April 2007

- The new improved BWAG website went live on 12 March 2007 and has had almost 950 hits in just over 3 weeks. We are extremely grateful to Stuart Edwards of SJSE Ltd. for his professional advice and guidance, all of which he has provided free of charge and his ongoing commitment to maintain and update the site for us.
- Coppicing began within the woodland on 14 March 2007 and will continue until approximately the end of July. Public information and warning signs have been erected on all approaches to the area.
- BWAG has secured £5000 from KCC Public Rights of Way to enable several hundred meters of the byway to be resurfaced. This was required to allow access to the woodland for the coppicing contractors and will make walking and horse riding in the area more enjoyable. This work commenced on 30 March 2007 and was completed on 4 April 2007.
- Contractors commenced work to improve the area of woodland at the bottom of White Hill, a favoured spot for fly tippers, on 2 April 2007 and anticipate that it will be completed by 10 April. The work includes clearance of existing fly tipping; new fencing, and the installation of a substantial metal barrier to deter fly tipping and off road vehicles, which currently use the bridleway illegally to gain access to Bredhurst Hurst. Also two bridle gates have been erected on the bridleway at the top of Strawberry Banks. This work was funded by KCC PRoW, Kent Downs AONB Unit, KCC Clean Kent and BWAG at a cost of approximately £4000. In addition to this work, the road adjacent to the area will be re-surfaced, but this will not be done for a couple of months as it takes this long to publish the public notices required to close the road, probably only for a day, whilst the work is being carried out.
- BWAG have given presentations this month to the West Kent Badger Group AGM and Bredhurst School.
- The Ancient Yew Group has made an initial visit to the village and work is ongoing to survey all the Yew trees within the area. Details can be found on the BWAG website or on <http://www.ancient-yew.org/>
- KCC have contacted landowners and user groups regarding the restricted access measures (Traffic Regulation Order) which they are seeking to impose on byway KH94 and have asked for written responses to their proposals by 1 May. When implemented, this will entail the installation of metal barriers at both the Detling and Bredhurst entrances to the byway and will only allow vehicular access to landowners or permit holders.
- VJ has submitted a breakdown of her volunteer time for the 06/07 financial year, of 600 hrs, to the Kent Downs AONB Unit. This can be used as 'in kind' match funding, allowing additional funds to be levered in to support BWAG. This is a substantial increase on the 05/06 figure of 192 hrs.

- BWAG are holding an open meeting at the Village Hall on **25 April 2007** at 7.30pm. A presentation will highlight the achievements since the group was formed in May 2005 and its vision for the future.
- Other forthcoming events include:
 - **10 April** - KWT Volunteer Day in Bredhurst Hurst
 - **17 April** - KWT Volunteer Day in Bredhurst Hurst
 - **14 April** - Kent Reptile & Amphibian Group
 - **28 April** - Landowners Spring Day at Green Court
 - **6 May** - Guided bird walk
 - Full details all events can be found on www.bwag.org.uk ,
Forthcoming Events