

BWAG Monthly Reports to Bredhurst Parish Council

December 2007

The Royal Engineers started the path restoration work on 12 November and initially anticipated to be on site for approximately one month. The work has generated a lot of media interest and has been featured on BBC South East; Radio Kent; Invicta Radio and KMFM. A number of articles have appeared in the Kent Messenger; Kent on Sunday and the project is due for inclusion in the February 08 edition of the NFU Countryside magazine. We have also been contacted by a Canadian newspaper, The Toronto Star, which is writing an article on UK woodlands. Unfortunately, due to acts of vandalism to Army equipment and poor weather conditions, progress has been delayed. The REs have now confirmed that they will return to Bredhurst on 18 February 2008 for an additional month to complete the project.

The Experimental Traffic Regulation Order (ETRO) for byway KH94 came into effect on 3 December and is initially for an 18 month period. This will limit access to the byway to permit holders and landowners only and its effectiveness will be closely monitored. Permits will be issued by KCC to applicants who are required to provide their vehicle details and must agree to abide by the terms and conditions of the scheme. For full details please visit <http://www.kent.gov.uk/environment/public-rights-of-way/experimental-traffic-order.htm> The ETRO will not only make horse riding and walking in the area safer, if the experiment is a success, it will also only allow responsible and legitimate owners of off-road vehicles access to the byway and thereby benefiting all user groups.

BWAG Previous Events /Meetings Attended

The Bredhurst Summit, 12 November

This meeting was called by Steve Goulette, Assistant Director of Regulatory & Environmental Services, MBC and chaired by Cllr Tony Harwood, Cabinet Member for Environment. It brought together key players from many agencies including MBC, KCC, Kent Wildlife Trust, Kent Downs AONB Unit, Natural England and major landowners. Various topics were discussed including the wider impact that Bredhurst Hurst has on neighbouring areas of land and how we can further safeguard the protection of our countryside.

Kent Wildlife Trust, Trustees Event, 15 November

Vanessa Jones represented BWAG and BPC.

Winter Bird Walk, 24 November

This walk was well attended and was led by Owen Sweeney of the Kent Ornithological Society (KOS).

BWAG Forthcoming Events / Meetings Scheduled

Carols, Minced Pies & Mulled Wine at Green Court, The Street, 7.30pm on 6 December

The event will be opened by the Mayor of Maidstone, Cllr Richard Ash.

Full details of all events can be found at www.bwag.org.uk or contact Vanessa Jones on 07813 785940 postmaster@vanessajones.plus.com