

BWAG Monthly Reports to Bredhurst Parish Council

June 2007

- During May BWAG gave guided walks to both Wigmore and 1st Mierscourt Brownies. Wigmore Brownies combined their walk with a sponsored litter pick and presented BWAG with a cheque for £75. This was unexpected, but much appreciated!! BWAG would like to thank them for all their hard work and for their generous donation.
- Owen Sweeney of the Kent Ornithological Society (KOS) led a bird walk in Bredhurst Hurst on 6 May. This was well attended and many sightings were recorded including Nightingale, Whitethroat, Lesser Whitethroat, Long Tailed Tit, Skylark, Chaffinch, Thrush and Mistlethrush.
- In line with guidance received, the status of BWAG is now as an Advisory Committee to Bredhurst Parish Council and not a Sub-Committee. This is a formality and will not affect the day to day operation of BWAG.
- At the June BWAG Advisory Committee meeting:
 - ❖ Cllr Vanessa Jones was re-elected as Chairman; Pamela Newman as Vice-Chairman and Melanie Fooks as Secretary.
- The following committee member nominations are as follows:
 - ❖ Dennis Newman; Jim Chalmers; David Olver; Gerarda Olver; Deana Foulds; Jenny Fryatt; Ann Callan; Cllr Robin Grimble (Detling PC); Borough Cllr Wendy Hinder & Borough Cllr Derek Butler
- The membership fees and criteria for the coming year were recommended to Bredhurst Parish Council for approval:
 - ❖ £5 - Concessions (OAPs/students/unemployed)
 - ❖ £10 - Individual Membership
 - ❖ £15 - Household Membership.
 - ❖ £50 - Corporate. This entitles the corporate body to nominate members to the value of £60 i.e. 12 x Concessions; 6 x Individual Membership or 4 x Household Membership. BWAG will require details of nominations. The corporate organisation is also entitled to have a link from the BWAG website to their own.
 - ❖ Membership fees to be reviewed annually
 - ❖ It is recommended to BPC that honorary membership to BWAG be granted only in exceptional circumstances.
 - ❖ BWAG propose honorary membership be granted to Stuart Edwards of SJSE Ltd for designing and maintaining the BWAG website. The site has raised the profile of BWAG and has given the group a more professional image. The newly designed site has proved invaluable to BWAG and with Stuart providing his services free of charge; this has saved the group an enormous amount of money.
- **Traffic Regulation Order (TRO):** KCC are evaluating the response to the public consultation and will provide an update to BWAG in the near future.
- **The Royal Engineers:** The survey work is now complete and BWAG have received detailed plans of the area. BWAG has now sought formal permission from the Royal Engineers requesting assistance with the path and byway restoration.
- **Coppicing / Scrub Clearance:** Work is progressing well. The 1st plots, as identified in the KWT Management Plan, have been completed and work has

commenced on adjacent plots.

- **Work at White Hill:** This work is now complete, including the removal of the asbestos contaminated waste, thanks to MBC and the intervention of Cllr Hinder. The area has been levelled, covered with soil and sown with a mixture of wildflower and grass seed. The original estimated contribution from BWAG towards this work of approximately £600 is no longer required. This is due to the volunteer hours submitted by Cllr Jones for 2006/2007 of 600 hours. This is classed as 'in kind match funding' and in monetary terms equates to approximately £12,000, far exceeding the amount required for this and other projects in 06/07. In addition, the Boston Elms Wood, Clay Pigeon Shoot has donated £450 to BWAG.
- **Installation of CCTVs:** Negotiations are ongoing with KCC and various options are under consideration.
- **Involvement of District Valuation Office:** It was recommended to seek approval from BPC for BWAG to approach the DVO to obtain an official valuation for the plots currently available for purchase by BWAG. This was approved by BPC.

Forthcoming Events include:

- **9 June:** Vanessa Jones to give a presentation at a KWT event at the Inn on the Lake, Thong, on setting up a community group.
- **23 June, 'Cream Tea & Clarinets':** To be held in the gardens of Grove House, Dunn Street, Bredhurst from 2pm to 5pm. **Ad Hoc Ebony**, a clarinet quartet, will be performing from 3.30 onwards. There will also be a raffle and a plant stall. Tickets priced £3.50 in advance from Vanessa Jones on 07813 785940 or £4 on the day.
- **30 June:** BWAG stand at Bredhurst Village Summer Fete.
- **1 July:** BWAG stand at the Riverside Country Park, Countryside Experience Day.
- **13, 14 & 15 July, Kent County Show:** BWAG promotional stand at the County Show, for the 3rd year running.
- **Date to be confirmed, 'Cherry Orchard Walk & Tasting Event':** Details to be agreed.
- **28 & 29 July, 'The Woodland Trust National Conference, Lincolnshire':** BWAG will be representing the village and has been invited to give a presentation to the conference on the achievements of the group.