

## BWAG Monthly Reports to Bredhurst Parish Council

6 May 2009

### Activity in April:

- A volunteer day was held on 5 April with many BWAG members helping with the hand clearance of smaller items of vegetation in an area which BWAG are trying to restore to chalk grassland. The initial clearance work, undertaken last year, has already proved beneficial as the site this spring was full of primrose and other plants.
- On 20 April, 20 Field Squadron of Maidstone-based 36 Engineer Regiment began restoration work on another path for BWAG. It's the third time recently that the REs have supplied labour and machinery to bring the paths in Bredhurst Woods up to standard. BWAG secured funding for materials, supplied by Gallaghers at a third of normal price. About 500m of woodcutters' track has now been reinstated and links up with a longer section of bridleway that was restored by colleagues from Brompton Barracks last year and now creates a circular route for users.
- On 25 April the annual Bluebell Walk & Cream Tea was held. This year it attracted 81 guests - double the number of last year! Thanks to all members and supporters who made the day such a success and raised nearly £500, which will go towards the Path Restoration Fund.
- The BWAG AGM was held on 29 April and was attended by 25 members and 3 non-members. In accordance with the BWAG Constitution, three of ten Trustees were required to stand down but were eligible to put their names forward for re-election. Robin Grimble, Wendy Hinder and Rob Attwood were unopposed and unanimously re-elected by members.
- It was announced (after many months of form filling!) that BWAG has been approved as a registered charity (No. 1129178). Since it began in 2005, BWAG's official status has been as an Advisory Committee to the Parish Council. Now with nearly 350 members and funding secured of almost £85,000 BWAG will operate independently of the Parish Council. This will hopefully open up more funding opportunities enabling the preservation of Bredhurst Woods for future generations. The formal part of the evening was followed by a presentation by Neil Coombs, Kent Wildlife Trust, who gave a very interesting presentation on the Trust's involvement with the site and advice on further restoration projects.

### Forthcoming Events and Meetings:

Sunday 10 May - 8am, Early Morning Bird Walk

Meet at Hurstwood Road for a bird walk, led by Owen Sweeney of the Kent Ornithological Society.