

## Aston Rowant

We visited AR for two Autumn scrub bashing sessions: one on Linky Down in September (where Alie was joined by a group of co-workers for a 'day out') and the other, in October, on the sunken way.

Our October visit involved cutting scrub from the sides of the hollow way leading down from the main car park. This made the path easier for walkers and rendered more open growing conditions for wild flowers on the banks. This in turn will encourage butterflies. The Reserve sheep will browse down the re-growth next spring. The clippings were collected in a large sack (with keen interest from warden Bob !!) for hauling to the bonfire. Julia



## Ewelme

A small band of seven at Ewelme in October suggests the rule that no matter how many of us there at a session the work still gets done. We cleared a long section of channel each side of the central bund as well as both sides of the bank close to the weir and some cross channels, so that the stream began to flow a lot faster. We enjoyed using our brand new wet gloves. Alie and Wim brought Dutch apple cake and spice cake for coffee break.

Julia



## Cleeve Court

In the course of a year SCGG usually manage 8 sessions at Cleeve Water Meadow carrying out a whole range of tasks, fortunately, many of these tasks involve a bonfire and I'm sure that is why the attendance record is always so high. However, our prime task for the last few visits has been to build a new bridge on a site at the opposite end of the ditch to the existing bridge. This will enable visitors to navigate a circular route around the water meadow allowing them to enjoy all aspects of the site. On our visit today (Thursday 24th October) Tony, Keith and Steve spent the session putting the final touches to the said bridge which is now fully fit for purpose. As with many SCGG construction projects the whole thing was designed and managed by Tony, so a big thanks to him from all of us including Charlotte the site owner. Eric



## Ipsden Wood

Despite lowering skies and the forecast of torrential rain, a good-sized group of us turned up at Ipsden Wood in early October to complete the removal of the Forestry Commission plantation fence. Thick brambles growing through the last section of fence were cut away so we could detach and roll up the wire and chicken netting before removing the intermediate posts, and then there was a long walk back to the bridleway carrying these heavy materials. Some of the posts were re-used to install a demarcation line along the boundary between the plantation and the privately-owned grassy slope. This was the line of the old fence, and in the middle of it we found growing some bright red Fly Agaric fungus. The rain held off apart from a short burst at coffee time. Julia



## Greys Court

The laurel at the top of the bluebell wood at Greys Court had grown back quite thickly since our last chopping back, so in October we returned to cut it down to ground level stumps again. Tony soon got the bonfire going so we were able to burn most of what we had cut by the end of the session. Walkers could enjoy again the views through the wood to the surrounding open fields, and the broadleaf tree trunks were revealed in all their magnificence. Julia



### Kennylands



A strong arm team gathered at Kennylands to rake up the recently brush cut grass around the lavender beds and then trim the beech

hedges to make sure that they were under control for the next growing season. What seemed like a relatively small area produced a very large pile of grass cuttings which was left to compost in the bushes by the road.

### Temple Island Meadows

An Autumn visit to Temple Island meadows showed the progress towards reclaiming the water meadows. The Alder and Willow has been cleared enough to get a mechanised flail in to start controlling the reeds. Once the cut material is raked into safe rows, attempts can be made to burn it. This should allow the natural grasses and wild-

flowers to regenerate and cattle can be used to keep the growth under control.



### Green Broom Wood

On a damp September morning we continued the work of clearing rotting wood and invasive Brambles and Bracken in Green Broom Wood. It is satisfying to see the cleared glades getting larger and the heaps of waste for burning getting higher. Although we did not have a fire this session, some of the winter ones should be warm! On one log we found an interesting 'Golden Spindles' fungus developing.



we found an interesting 'Golden Spindles' fungus developing.



### Parmoor

We returned to Parmoor after a long absence and were amazed at the progress in the Victorian walled garden. The vegetable patches were all groaning with copious amounts of produce. There were flowers, laden fruit trees and greenhouses bursting with tomatoes, cucumbers and aubergines. The box hedges we had attacked over a year ago were thriving and being clipped into shape by young trainees. We tackled a vegetable patch, weeding and turning it over as can be seen from the pictures.



### Moorend Common

The invading birch saplings needed clearing from the seasonal pond on Middle Glade of the common. A small group attacked these, the gorse and brambles and by the time we had finished the pond (which luckily was nearly dry) was both visible and accessible.



Magazine contact: Chris Ash  
chrisp.ash@btinternet.com  
Tel 0118 9723520  
The Green Gym  
C/o Health Centre, 39 Wood Lane,  
Sonning Common  
Enquiries - Robin - 0118 972 3528



# "THE LOPPER"

full of little cuttings.

Number 38 December 2013

## Sonning Common

### Rotherfield Greys

Today I saw for the first time what has been done with the corner of Greys churchyard we worked on:

The corner of the churchyard at St. Nicholas, Rotherfield Greys has undergone a transformation since our 3 visits. The area was very overgrown and we had to clear a lot of shrub and fell some large dead trees. We removed the thick ivy from the brick and flint wall in addition to excavating large quantities of buried concrete, broken stoneware and rusty metal. A small mechanical digger was brought in after we left to level the ground, resulting in a tranquil garden for contemplation. The Church PCC is very pleased and grateful for our preparatory work.

Julia



### Nettlebed Common

The path from the playing field to Jack's Pond has become rather worn and muddy. Where it is worst the decision was to divert the path along a new route and at the same time start to create some open glades to encourage play areas. The day we were working was after recent gale force winds and there were numerous trees damaged or blown over. These were cleared and a large open glade created with surrounding areas suitable for play camps, climbing and swinging.

A Natural Swing?



Girl Power

