



Ringstead Woodland and Garden Walks (a constituted unregistered charity) Spring Report

Ongoing Work

The chalk pit has been mowed regularly since March 1st. Exceptionally mild winter conditions resulted in an early display of daffodils and currently cowslips and forget-me-nots are on show. On April 23rd the first major attack on weeds took place followed by mulching of particular areas to keep down the weeds. Several trees were also planted. Five volunteers carried out this work. At the end of the day the chalk pit looked stunning in the late evening sun.

The Le Strange Estate has extended the car park and in exchange the group will keep the area tidy.

The council dog bin at the entrance to the Downs track has been well used, which has meant less mess to clear up.

Finance

Currently there is £1,034 in the bank kept in reserve to pay for the annual renewal of insurance and on going costs such as fuel and maintenance of machinery. A shed has been purchased to store equipment and the marquee. The public have continued to make small donations which are used to buy more plants.

Events and plans for the future.

A group has expressed interest in holding a family gathering towards the end of May. They want to hire the marquee and will make a sizeable donation, which will help towards the upkeep of the project.

We are considering holding a barbecue hog roast to mark the start of the next 5 years of the Ringstead Woodland project. The chalk pit continues to be well used and all in all it has been a positive start to the year.

There is one negative comment to make regarding an act of wilful vandalism recently when someone took it upon himself or herself to saw off the finger post to the chalk pit woodland entrance. A repair will be made but it is disappointing that not everyone appreciates all the hard work that goes into keeping the area a pleasant place for public use.