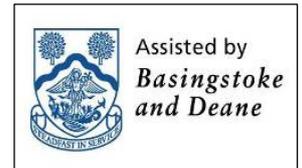




# Oakley Woodlands Group Newsletter No. 66 March 2014



## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Our AGM was held on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2014. The main points of general interest are that we are in a financially sound position and we elected a new Committee. As far as accounts go, our product sales keep us self supporting as long as the Borough Council continue to finance two essential items, namely insurance and the rental of our lock-up equipment storage garage. We have in the past always rented a charcoal kiln for our annual charcoal burn, but our supplier is spending more and more time out of the country so we have purchased the kiln from him and are now independent. Your new Committee is:

Chairman	Dave Breeze	Committee Members	Keith Bringes
Secretary	Peter Wilson		Dave Huyton
Treasurer	Dave Dickenson		Sean Roche
Publicity	Brian Slater		Roy Yeoman

**Editor's note:** As you can see, I have agreed to take on the Publicity job (on a temporary basis— as no-one else volunteered), but I hope a new Officer for this post can be found as I believe it is important to have a reasonable turnover of Committee members and I have been on the Committee for most of the time since the inception of the Group.

## CURRENT STATUS

The 2013/2014 coppicing season is drawing to an end and we have finished most of the planned work for this season. It is essential to protect newly coppiced areas with temporary fencing to protect the regrowth from deer and rabbit predation and we have arranged a couple of extra work parties to finish off this essential work. The spring flowers are coming forth in strength and in a couple of week's time, the woods will be a riot of colour when the bluebells emerge in strength.

## WOOD SALES DAY

Our "Wood Sales Day" is becoming an annual event. This year it will be held in St. John's copse on **Saturday 3 May** from 10.00am to 1.00pm. Charcoal, Bean Poles, Pea Sticks, and various other products will be on sale at the woods and all proceeds go into our conservation work. So come and buy your essential BBQ and gardening products from a local, renewable source and support our conservation efforts.

## CHARCOAL BURNING

Our annual Charcoal burning will take place from **Friday 8<sup>th</sup> August to Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> August**. If you would like to help with the burn, please contact Dave Breeze (no doubt he will be chasing up the regulars nearer the time!). In any event you are most welcome to come along and see what goes on – the most exciting time is around 9.00am when the kiln is lit and huge volumes of smoke emerge!

## FUTURE ACTIVITIES

Summer is the quiet period for coppicing – there is no actual cutting done when the hazel is growing. We do occasional survey work and similar activities and we have the Charcoal Burn and Wood Sales as mentioned above.

The new season will get underway in October and the first dates for your diaries are **Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup>** and **Saturday 11<sup>th</sup>** October in Cowdown Copse and **Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup>** and **Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> October** in St. John's Copse.

## CONTACTS

		Tel. No.
Chairman	Dave Breeze	01256 780814
Secretary	Peter Wilson	01256 359837
Treasurer	Dave Dickenson	01256 479511
Publicity	Brian Slater	01256 780810
Sales	Sally Slater	01256 780810

## Email

annedave2@hotmail.co.uk
peterjames.wilson@gmail.com
dickinson.306@btinternet.com
b.slater06@btinternet.com
s.slater06@btinternet.com