

**Kings Worthy, Path 502  
Glade Clearance  
Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> June 2008**



The aim of the task is to create a new glade in a carefully chosen spot in a cutting along the disused railway line, continuing the work done in April ...

On another Sunday afternoon with saws and loppers in hand, the group of 6 volunteers set about clearing trees and scrub further up the steep embankment, from where we had previously left off. Tree stumps provided a suitable foot-hold for those more awkward trees, but whilst most trees were fairly thin, a large number made certain our work would not be effortless!

Having made a good impression on one side of the track, and after a short break for refreshments, we moved to the other side, again working up the embankment, which fortunately was not quite so steep on this side. All but a couple of the larger trees were removed, with cuttings being suitably stacked into two dead-hedges.

Allowing extra light to penetrate the dense canopy in this way should, within a fairly short period of time, see wildflowers and grasses start to grow, eventually covering the bare ground.

Providing not just a pleasant aspect for passers-by, but also creating a new habitat for insects, birds and mammals, this, together with the work we have done at several other spots along the disused railway line, creates a much more interesting and bio-diverse footpath.

The afternoon was mostly rain free, until – after clearing up and packing the tools into the boot of my car, which was parked near to the path – the others made their way back along the track to their own cars, when the long-time threatening clouds opened in a torrential downpour!! Hee-hee!

The afternoon saw a very gratifying transformation of another section of the footpath. Weather: sun & clouds, mild with a late downpour, 16°C.

*Bruce Graham, Task Leader*

**Upcoming task and event dates**

- 20 July          Butterfly survey, Top Field
  - 10 August      Litter pick with St Mary's Church group
  - 21 September Bench Installation, St Mary's Church
  - 19 October     Fungus Foray, Micheldever Wood
- Contact Bruce on 01962 882789 for more information.



*Donations to the group are gratefully received and will help ensure conservation work continues.*