

# Project Newsletter No3 - May 2000

Fresh off the press, here are the dates for this summer's workdays. I would like to continue the work already carried out and consolidate what has been achieved to date. I sincerely hope that we will have another successful year as our influence on the 'Ridge' increases

## 21st May - Tree Maintenance

Young trees require management to ensure that they are free from competition and remain healthy. One of the major culprits in the failure of many trees is unchecked weed growth around the base of the tree.

By removing vegetation from the immediate vicinity of the tree, it enables the young plant to take up water and nutrients unhindered. This is the reasoning behind this task. We will also prune some seedlings in order to promote healthy growth.

Equipment required

- **Work gloves**
- **Secateurs**

## 18<sup>th</sup> June - Bracken Bash

Is it only a year since our first work day? - How time flies.

At the time of writing there is little sign of Bracken regeneration in the areas we concentrated on last year, with only a few shoots beginning to emerge. This will surely change by June and I expect that there will be a dense covering for us to attack once more.

The usual equipment will be required

- **Stout Stick**
- **Work Gloves**

## 30th July - Rosebay Pull and Nettle Bash

This is the one we never got chance to do last year.

Rosebay Willowherb, although a beautiful plant, is an excellent coloniser of 'unmanaged' land. If left to flower and seed, the wind-dispersed seeds enable the plant to spread quickly. In order to prevent this we will pull the stems before they have chance to flower.

Nettles are also effective colonisers of open land and if left to their own devices they can form dense stands that prevent other species from becoming established. Once again the aim is to prevent the plants from seeding. As these plants have infamous self-defence mechanisms we will attack them with our trusty 'stout sticks'. The usual equipment will be required -

- **Stout Stick**
- **Work Gloves**

## 13th August - Bracken Bash

As before, our second (and final)  
attack on the Bracken - **equipment as  
before.**