

Melwood Under Attack

www.melwood.org.uk

The volunteers of the Melwood Conservation Group work hard to maintain the attractive nature of the wood and encourage wild flowers wherever possible. Planting the verges of the paths brings flowers more clearly into sight of those walking around the wood but being such a small area with such heavy use there is always a tendency for the paths to get steadily wider and the verges progressively eroded. Like most nature reserves, both large and small, we mark the edges of paths in the narrower regions by laying down logs to show the limit of the path.. We did this at the first work party of the year, on the 29th of January, marking the path around a triangle of ground at the back of the wood. The logs were secured in position by stakes hammered onto the ground either side and strong wire around the logs and the stakes.

Not far from this triangle of ground is a site traditionally used as a bonfire site, mostly by young people during summer evenings but on 26th of Feb. there was a party in the wood with music blaring out until about midnight. This was apparently adults or young adults, perhaps the same ones who had a similarly noisy party in December. On that occasion, I commented how pleasing it was that no rubbish was left. On this occasion I was far less pleased! The logs marking the edge of the paths had been ripped up and used a fuel for the bonfire. Surely nobody is so ignorant as to be unaware that if the logs were wired down then they were supposed to be there. This really amounts to wanton vandalism!. Something I'm sure all those who love the wood will be appalled at. I hope that if those responsible read this magazine, they will reflect on their actions and find somewhere else to have their bonfires.

Melwood Conservation Group

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