

Worthies Conservation Volunteers
Report of the task of Sunday 20th February 2005,
by Bruce Graham

Upper Broadview Shrubbery Improvement

Volunteers Present

Bruce Graham, Task Leader

Connie Martyn

Michael & Maureen Edwards

Martin & Ruby Bown, and featuring Rosie, the Springer spaniel

Description

Braving the cold northerly wind and moderately overcast conditions, including some flurries of snow, Bruce, Connie, Michael, Maureen, Martin and Ruby, and the ever excitable Rosie, gathered on Upper Broadview, OS grid reference 449365E 133457N, at 2pm, a little earlier than the agreed 2.30pm start, obviously keen to get on with the work in hand. Hazard signs were tactically erected, together with the WCV Information 'A' Board being situated on Tovey Place pavement for maximum viewing by passers-by.

On arrival a young couple, out for a stroll with their toddler, took an interest in the group's activities, otherwise there were no visitors to Broadview.

Tools were gathered. A short briefing of the objectives and risk assessment was held prior to work being started. To avoid the confusion of all working on the same patch, it was decided to split up into smaller groups, so Connie, Martin and Ruby started working at the lower end of the shrubbery, myself and Maureen worked some 10 metres further up, whilst Michael took on a more solitary task clearing elder along the length of the shrubbery.

Improvement work proceeded as follows:

- cutting back of invasive species such as bramble and clematis;
- removal of elder and self-seeded ash and pruning of laurel overshadowing the front and lower level of the border and also where holly and other trees species had been planted;
- some thinning & light pruning of snowberry, garden rose and cotoneaster to encourage stronger and broader growth;
- some crowning of hawthorn where this was considered appropriate; and
- removal of old fence posts remaining from when the shrubbery was originally planted.

Cuttings were deposited out of sight at the back of the shrubbery but away from the boundary fence – the tying back of leylandii at the lower end created a suitable access point. A bicycle frame and a saddle were amongst the rubbish found within the depths of the border - these were taken away. (Dog mess was encountered in several places.)

At the end of the session and whilst clear-up work was undertaken, Connie and Maureen extended their efforts to Lower Broadview, clearing rubbish.

The session was completed at about 4.30pm.

Clearly to have completed the work along the full stretch of the shrubbery was beyond the scope of the session and the volunteers present, however it was agreed that good progress had been made, covering a section of 20-25 metres, and that a further visit in April and again in the Autumn should ensure satisfactory completion. Benefits of the improvement work have included a better habitat for birds and insects, as well as a more interesting site for visitors.

Thanks to all participants.