

Headbourne Worthy, St Swithun's Churchyard
Wildlife habitat maintenance
Sunday 16th September 2007



**Worthys
Conservation
Volunteers**

Our task this month, in cooperation with St Swithun's PCC, was to clear re-growth of nettles and brambles from the wildlife habitat around St Swithun's church. Most of the group of 10 volunteers targeted the area to the north of the church, pulling out nettles by hand but leaving the more interesting plants, most notably raspberry and comfrey. The plants we removed were placed in a heap towards the edge of the river, which will provide a valuable habitat for various insects and animals. Further from the lawn we left the nettles growing – partly because they provide a wonderful habitat for butterflies, and partly because we didn't have time to tackle them!



Before: Nettles and brambles encroaching on lawn

Meanwhile, Michael Edwards and his strimmer attacked the path leading to the graveyard, cutting back over-hanging growth to make sure the path remains wide enough for easy use. Bruce Graham made full use of his now legendary sawing technique to remove fallen and damaged branches from several trees.



Pulling out nettles – painful work!



Posing!

Jonathan and Morgan Smith investigated several of the bird- and bat-boxes, finding signs of use in most of them. Interestingly the bat-boxes appear to have been used by birds! Having been emptied and cleaned out, these will need to be replaced at a later date – we hope to return to St Swithun's next month to complete several jobs that we did not have time to tackle.

Weather: mostly sunny and warm, 20°C.

Future WCV activities:

Tuesday 11th October 7.30pm – Meeting, Kings Worthy Community Centre

Sunday 21st October 1.30pm – St Swithun's

Sunday 18th November 1.30pm – Clearance on disused railway (Path 502)

Sunday 25th November – Winnall Moors, working for Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trusts



After: The north side of the churchyard