

Friends Of Baddesley Common

Newsletter 1 – October 2009

We are a group of volunteers who live locally, who would like to see Baddesley Common restored to its former glory, with open spaces & pathways, wide & distant views, and a varied wildlife habitat, which can all be enjoyed by local people. The meeting we held on 8th September indicated that there is plenty of interest within the village, and hopefully this can be continued and built upon once the project has started. Although things may seem to have gone quiet since that meeting, plenty has been going on behind the scenes to get things moving, although the burden of red-tape seems to be never ending!

BLACK PATH

The three sections of the Black Path vary in the degrees of clearance necessary. The first section by the wheel is by far the easiest and we propose this is the first to be cleared.



OPEN SPACES

Much of the Common is being taken over by scrub trees, mainly oak & birch, and also by foreign trees such as sycamore. Bracken is also a problem in parts. If these are left then it is only a matter of time before the whole common is impenetrable, and the remaining views are lost. Although some trees are obviously beneficial, most of the remaining small trees will need to be removed.



HEATHER

The area of heather on the Common is one of the largest in Warwickshire, but this too is suffering from encroachment. This supports some rare wildlife so it also needs to be kept clear of scrub & bracken.



PONDS

There are currently 2 ponds close to the village. These ponds, especially the 'Stumpit' support a huge range of wildlife, but are in desperate need of restoration. Also, in a recent survey, many people expressed a wish to see a return of a village pond, and the possibility of this is being investigated.



Unfortunately we are unable to start anything until we have public liability insurance, the funds for which will hopefully soon be forthcoming. Hopefully as soon as this is in place we will be in a position to announce when and where we would like to make a start. Also in the pipeline is a website, which will carry all the developments and plans regarding the common, including its history.

We hope you can join us!