



Friends of the Roman Road and Fleam Dyke

June 2011

Newsletter Number Thirty Five

Our Tenth Annual General Meeting

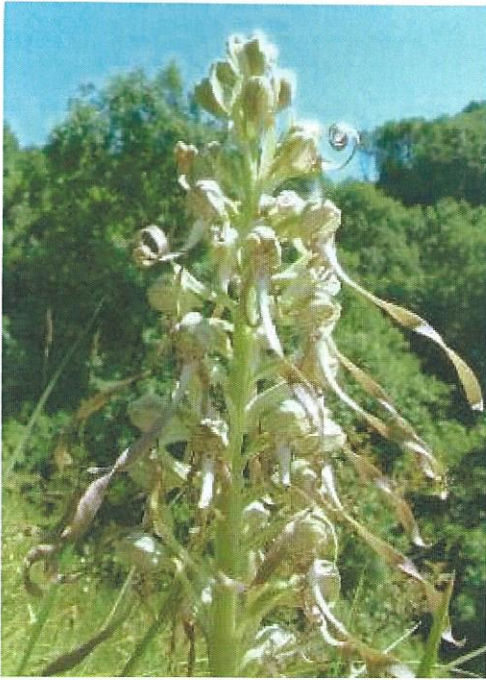
This was held in the Six Bells Public House, Fulbourn on Wednesday 9th March 2011 and was attended by the committee and about 30 members. Just as a starter, our Chairman, Edmund Tanner, showed some pictures of Fleam Dyke between Mutlow Hill and the old railway, which were taken from 1979 onwards by Dr David Kelly, (University of Canterbury, New Zealand). The position of the old pine tree, which until recently was a prominent feature of this section, emphasized the difference that management work has made to the scrub that was previously encroaching on this section.



Sam Agnew Retiring

Edmund announced that our first chairman, Sam Agnew, was standing down from the committee. He summarized Sam Agnew's achievement in setting up the Friends, with all the administrative detail that involves, fund-raising through Lottery grants and campaigning tirelessly for a Traffic Restriction order on the Roman Road near Horseheath. From the beginning, Sam hoped that the two sites could be linked in a Long Distance Walk, and he gave Roger Lemon a lot of help on the project.

On behalf of the committee, our Patron, Peter Grubb presented Sam with a gold-edged certificate declaring him to be a Life Member of the Friends! More practically, there was a case of nice wine. There was also a bouquet of lilies for Trisha Agnew, who was an enthusiastic supporter of the Friends and almost always came to our meetings. Trish and Sam continue to help with butterfly recording.



The unmistakable Lizard orchid.
With thanks to Keith Swift



Some of the Saxon gold hoard found
in Staffordshire in 2009 by Terry
Herbert
With thanks to the Portable Antiquities Scheme.



Our Tenth Anniversary Celebration. April 14th
Back row: Dr Edmund Tanner, our Chairman; Professor Peter Grubb, our Patron.
Front Row: Elfrida Heath, Social Events; Julia Napier, Secretary and Dr Kevin Leahy,
National Advisor for the Portable Antiquities Scheme
Photo by Ognien Tomic

Chairman's Report

News and events since April 2010.

- Roger Lemon was thanked for all his work on the long-distance walk, which has been a great success. Eight hundred booklets had been sold which, after two information boards showing the route had been paid for, brought in over £1,000 for our funds.
- Edmund also thanked Roger for co-ordinating the Butterfly Transects. In 2010, twenty four species were seen on both sites. On Fleam Dyke, there was an exciting sighting of a Dark Green Fritillary, and a remarkable six-fold increase in the number of Chalkhill Blues. On the Roman Road, the first Marbled Whites were recorded since 2007.
- The Seasonal TRO from October to April was again imposed on the Horseheath end of the Roman Road, but unfortunately the off-road riders disregarded it, driving round the gate posts. (Since then a small bank or bund has been installed to deter them.)
- The Quiz Night held on 7th July 2010 was attended by 40 people, while 15 people came to the guided tour of Wimpole Hall on 28th July. Elfrida was thanked for organising these enjoyable events.
- Edmund commented on the fact that Julia sends the tri-annual newsletter to 237 households, giving us a membership of well over 300 individuals.
- The Friends of the Roman Road and Fleam Dyke are most grateful to the members who have added £10, £15 or £20 to their subscriptions. We have received several donations of £50 and in addition, we received £156 from a collection made at the private funeral of Dr David Clark, who loved Fleam Dyke and campaigned to preserve the Junipers there.
- Unfortunately for us, Edmund had to announce that David Barden is leaving the committee in order to take up a new job in south Wales. He was thanked for his contributions to the Friends over the years, in particular for his expert botanical recording. David has been working on a species list for both sites. The Fleam Dyke list is already on our website, www.frrfd.org.uk under Flora and Fauna. He hopes to complete the Roman Road plant list quite soon.
- Edmund welcomed two new committee members: Elfrida Heath and Christine Newell. Elfrida has organised our social events this year, and is helping Julia with our Tenth Anniversary Celebration on 14th April. Christine is a regular helper on work parties, and has offered to take over managing the web site.

Report on conservation work

by Iain Webb

Iain said that the tasks over the last year had been split between those carried out by the Mid-Week Volunteers, and those by the Friends. These work-parties had generally been very well-attended, and he was very pleased with the amount of work that had been carried out. He was able to say, as he did last year, that both sites were looking the best that he has known them, especially the part of the Roman Road between Worsted Lodge and Copley Hill. Iain thanked those who had helped on work-parties over the year, and looked forward to welcoming more volunteers when the work-party season resumes in October.

Highlights of the flora

by David Barden

David reported the encouraging news that Wild Thyme is now present in two places on the Roman Road. He said the scrub clearance carried out on the Fleam Dyke has resulted in sudden increases in plants such as native Catmint, Harebell and Clustered

Bellflower, and steadier rises in Yellow Rattle or Hay Rattle, Sweet-briar and Dropwort. He said that Violets have also done very well in these places, and that Hairy Violet in particular is abundant and very variable between A11 and the Bedford Gap.

Commenting on the big clearance by Natural England north-west of Deadman's Hill (near the bridleway to Hildersham), David reported that although weed growth was initially strong, and creeping thistle in particular continues to be a concern, continued work has been successful in stopping scrub from regenerating, and some desirable species such as Lady's Bedstraw are gradually spreading out from the footpath, where they had maintained small populations.

As to some of the rarer plants on our two sites, 2010 was a good flowering year for Purple Milk-vetch, which seems to be quite persistent in its known sites. David has made a special study of Field Fleawort over the last couple of years, and found that most plants do not flower or seed, because of a combination of exposure, grazing and trampling – a similar situation to that which affects Pyramidal Orchid. He said that Bastard Toadflax persists at its one site on the Fleam Dyke, but seems to have limited power to spread, while Primrose is also found in just one spot on the Roman Road near Borley Wood. David noted that Nettle-leaved Bellflower is doing well on the Fleam Dyke, especially by the footpath leading to Balsham, near the Ambush. He found its presence here interesting, because in Cambridgeshire it is generally associated with ancient hedges and woodland, and it was therefore tempting to link it with a time when the area as a whole was more well-wooded.

Finally, he mentioned Autumn Gentian, which seems to have undergone a genuine increase in the last few years. He said that we now have three colonies between the A11 and Bedford Gap, where a few years ago it was unknown, and in 2010 we had over 500 plants between the old railway and Mutlow Hill.

Treasurer's report

Mike Albutt presented the accounts for inspection, and was happy to report that income exceeded expenditure over the previous calendar year, although the numbers on the sheet looked more favourable than they were, due to a couple of expenses that had been carried over into 2011. The accounts are enclosed with this newsletter.

Election of committee members

All the members of the committee, except for those standing down, were elected or re-elected *en masse* without opposition. (This is how Athens turned into an oligarchy! ed.)

Interval

Erosion and scrub invasion



This photograph, from the Cambridgeshire Collection, shows Fleam Dyke in 1932. In the fifties, the pine trees were a favourite picnic spot for Dr David Clark and his family and others friends of Fleam Dyke.

Mutlow Hill is behind the pine trees, but the woodland plantation to the east was then a fraction of its present height. The last pine tree died but remained standing until few years ago.

The Conservation of Chalk Grassland Flora – Orchids and Butterflies by Peter Carey

Peter Carey is currently working as an independent academic ecologist and has an Affiliated Lectureship in the Department of Plant Sciences at the University of Cambridge. He worked on the grassland plots at the Monkswood Centre for Ecology and Hydrology between 1990 and 2009, specialising in studies of the determinants of the distribution and abundance of species. He was a Council member of the British Ecological Society between 2007 and 2010. He has been studying the Lizard Orchid in populations throughout England for 20 years in an attempt to understand the limits on a species at the edge of its northern range. He managed the Countryside Survey field campaign in 2007 and was the lead author on the reports that followed.



Lizard Orchid by W. H. Fitch

The remarkable Lizard Orchids on the Devil's Dyke are familiar by sight to local botanists, but most of us know little more about them. Below are the main points in a fascinating talk. I am grateful to Edmund Tanner and Peter Carey for correcting my draft text. JN

The Lizard Orchids on the Devil's Dyke are the furthest northern population of Lizard Orchids in the world. Long term surveys show that the number of flower heads seen each year varies a great deal, with very high numbers in certain years. The Lizard Orchids flourished in the period between 1915 and 1935, In the 1990s the same dramatic increases occurred.

There has been a long term study of the main centres of Lizard Orchids: the Devil's Dyke, Sussex, Bristol and Burnham on Sea, and on an increasing number of golf courses. In the 1990s, Royal St George's Golf Club began a programme of managing the golf course as far as possible to the benefit of their orchids and other wild flowers. The club leaves the 'rough' uncut, has introduced no fertilizers or foreign plants and chemicals are not used on the greens. The fact that the Open Championship is held at the Royal St George's golf course may explain why so many golf courses have since found that they have Lizard Orchids: 10 golf courses in 1994, 19 golf courses in 2010! The seeds are incredibly light and blow around in the wind, but they are also quite sticky and hard to clean off. It seems likely that golfers are transferring seed from course to course on their boots.

Peter Carey has been involved with the long term studies of the Lizard Orchid on the Devil's Dyke at Newmarket since 1977, and golf courses at Sandwich since 1987 and Rye since 1998. The basal rosette is 'wintergreen', but dies back after flowering, so the surveys are done in April and June each year. Surveys note details such as position, 'birth', size of flower spike and likelihood of flowering.

Lizard Orchids can be remarkably long lived. One recorded in 1987 was still alive in 2010. They take an average of eight years to mature, though a plant may flower after three years or fail to flower for twenty years. In the early years of recording, there were so few individual plants that they were given names. One is called TCEW for Terry Wells, who took part in the recording. (TCEW has been known to grow to a metre in height in its sheltered position nearer the bottom of the Devil's Dyke.) Another, which appears to be sterile, is called The Monk.

The number of seed pods varies according to the number of flowers on each stem. Although each seed pod can produce 1,000 tiny seeds, only one seed in every 2,000 will grow into a plant! Another factor in the story is, of course, pollination. The Lizard orchid is pollinated by insects which, like many human visitors, find the Devil's Dyke very windy.

Given all these different factors, numbers fluctuate a great deal, from very few spikes to a 101. The spring seasons when these large numbers are found tend to follow very dry winters and warmer wetter summers. Similar eruptions in number also occur with Pyramidal Orchids, Man Orchids and Tway Blade. Finally, Lizard Orchids need good weather for their growth, for flowering and for seed set, conditions which, at this northern edge of their range, cannot always be guaranteed.



Pyramidal orchid by W. H. Fitch

Grassland Management in the Picos de Europa.

The extraordinary variety of wildlife in this area, which straddles the border between France and Spain, results from the fact that four ecological habitats meet there: Mediterranean, Montane, Temperate and Atlantic. The species lists contain 550 vascular plants and over 40 species of orchid. There is, for example, a meadow where 11 different types of orchid grow in close conjunction, even as little as 2 cms apart, but they do not cross-pollinate because they flower at different seasons.

How is this variety maintained? Not always by careful conservation measures. Four species of orchid were found to be flourishing although they spent the summer under a caravan park! In fact, the survival of these wonderful meadows depends on variety of management: for grazing or for use as hay meadows, especially where hay is cut at different times. Disturbance by hooves or by the tusks of a rooting wild boar can also promote diversity.

Meadows in good condition will support a constant number of individuals per species over the eleven year study, but with lack of management the diversity of species is reduced. Scrub invasion and the presence of Asphodels, toxic to cattle, are the signs of decay which are becoming all too common, as the younger generation abandon the small farms and the hard life of their parents. For the moment, diversity of management, a key factor in the variety of these wonderful meadows, is maintained by the Code Napoleon which requires that land should be divided equally between the children of the owner.

Thus the population dynamics of plants varies from site to site. Orchids are variable in Britain, where many reach their most northern distribution, but seem to be more constant in the Picos de Europa in Spain. Different places have different ecology and this will necessitate different conservation measures.

These orchid illustrations are two of 1315 remarkably beautiful wood engravings done by a brilliant botanical artist, Walter Hood Fitch who worked at Kew. They were done for the "Handbook of the British Flora" by George Bentham, published 1865; revised by Sir Joseph Hooker and published with additional illustrations by W.G. Smith in 1887. Known as Bentham & Hooker, this was the handbook for several generations of botanists.

Tenth Anniversary Celebration, April 14th 2011

April 2011 was our Tenth Anniversary as a society, and we celebrated our success on 14th April with drinks followed by a talk on the Staffordshire Treasure. Keen readers will remember that the plan began with the hope of getting good attendance at our AGM, even perhaps equalling the turn-out of 90 for Sam Newton's talk on the Wuffing Kings and the Sutton Hoo Treasure in 2007. In fact we sold over 300 tickets and made £1,383, after deducting expenses.

The Perse School were wonderfully helpful and efficient. Their Main Hall, which you can see from the main road, is a handsome sixties building, very light, airy and convenient. Many members and friends arrived at 7.0pm for a drink and some happy socialising before the main event of the evening. While I was taking notes as fast as I could, I noticed that Gillian Mallett sitting beside me was also taking what seemed to me very much neater and more efficient notes. Since she makes beautiful jewellery herself, using semi-precious stones, and has a wealth of knowledge on the subject, I begged her help.

The Staffordshire Treasure by Gill Mallett

Ten years ago, the Friends of the Roman Road and Fleam Dyke was founded to cherish the unique history and natural history of an area near Cambridge whose beauty and significance was being obscure by neglect and misuse and the detritus of careless humanity near the expanding city of Cambridge.

The Staffordshire Treasure is a unique hoard of gold and silver of amazing workmanship from the seventh century. There is still a mystery as to why it was buried and it was only found by chance. Dr Kevin Leahy is a National Advisor for the Portable Antiquities Scheme with responsibility for early medieval metalwork finds.

The Portable Antiquities Scheme, based at the British Museum, works through local officers such as Helen Fowler in Cambridge, who makes an initial assessment of finds. Then an expert like Kevin Leahy helps conserve and evaluate such discoveries and put them into their historical context. His lecture was not just a chance to see beautiful pictures of the cleaned items in great detail, but to appreciate them in the context of other known finds such as that of Sutton Hoo, the Saxon burial of a king, found seventy years ago. He talked about the location of the find, the dating of these finds and the techniques used by the craftsmen who made these extraordinary objects.

The discovery caused great excitement when it was reported in July 2009 that Terry John Herbert had, with his metal detector, found piece after piece of ancient gold and silver in a field near the Roman road which is now the A5 not far from Lichfield. At first, great security was needed while the thin topsoil of the field was searched, yielding a fantastic 244 bags of finds amounting to 3,490 pieces of mostly decorated gold and silver comprising 1.4 kilograms of gold and a greater weight of silver.

Careful examination revealed that 60% were parts of military equipment (parts of helmets and swords but mostly without their blades) and 11% of collected fragments. The non-military items included a folded gold cross with collets (retaining collar) for stones, maybe garnets. Some pieces could have been the elaborate cover of a Bible. Many of the sword pommels were decorated with inlaid shaped slices of garnets with underlying patterned gold foil of fine workmanship resulting in a glittering blood-red colour. The details of some of the gold pieces which had some resemblance to the helmet of Sutton Hoo, showed embossed processions of armed men and patterns of intertwined animals and birds outlined in black niello, some with inset grooved or

cabochon garnets. No buckles, brooches or female attire was present, suggesting they came from the remains of the armoury of a defeated army, collected by the victors and buried as a celebratory offering to the gods for their victory, rather than just loot. The swords had had their pommels broken off, and the blades were not included among the buried treasure. Other finds elsewhere suggest that the work was English and not imported as was previously assumed, but we know very little about the craftsmen who made these things.

The treasure was found near the wooded edge of Cannock Chase, in the ancient Kingdom of Mercia, not very far from the Welsh border. It was on the edge of a clay mound, now nearly flattened by ploughing, and in the river valley connect to the Trent, which was ruled by the Saxons. The date seems to be late seventh century. The Latin inscription on the cross fragment comes from the Book of Numbers in the Vulgate Bible. "Rise up O Lord, and may thy enemies be dispersed and those who hate thee be driven from thy face." However, the story is still incomplete; the Saxons with the exquisite work of their goldsmiths, still have much to tell us.

The clear, revealing and amusing talk by Kevin Leahy left us all enthralled, and was a fine way to celebrate our link with history through the Fleam Dyke and Roman Road. We thank Julia Napier and Elfrida Heath for arranging it.

What have we done with our loot?

Flower and Butterfly News

by Julia Napier

Towards the end of his talk, Kevin Leahy quoted the great Anglo Saxon poem Beowulf in which the poet says, "They left the gold in the ground, as useless to man now as it ever was". However, our haul of 'gold', apart from being much less beautiful or durable, has been put to work at once clearing scrub and dewberry from the Roman Road. The south verge of the Road, a few hundred yards south of Copley Hill was cleared by Sharon Hearle and the Mid-week Volunteers in the nineties. Subsequently it was maintained with an annual cut by the adjoining landowner until 2006, when plans were made for the landowner to receive an environmental subsidy in return for the management of his section of this SSSI: a system called HLS or Higher Level Scheme. In the meantime, no cutting was done and so the verge became increasingly overgrown.

After a series of delays, most of this section was cleared in April by Bernard Hunt, a skilled contractor and also a wildlife expert. Having checked for bird's nests, Bernard and two helpers spent three very hard days brush cutting, raking off, and treating as much of the scrub and bramble as possible. Unfortunately, the drought which lasted until June 1st made it impossible to consider burning the brush. This job had to be left until the autumn, not least because a large pile of cut material quickly becomes a home to all sorts of small mammals, invertebrates and possibly small birds.

The initial appearance, of almost bare soil and dead shoots, seemed unnecessarily destructive, and only after more rain in July could one begin to see the benefits. There had been a lot of Greater and Common Knapweed among the scrub but mid-July it had become clear that there were patches and bands of Lady's Bedstraw all along the edge of the clearance, with patches of Hoary Plantain, Agrimony, Red Clover, Mignonette and White Campion. and a remarkable quantity of Bird's Foot Trefoil, the food plant of the Common Blue butterfly. Further south, in a section which had been the least badly scrubbed over, there are a dozen plants of Burnet Saxifrage and even a few plants of Dropwort, both now coming into flower. There are small patches of small, dark green fescue, but the dominant grass is the tall, tough, False Oats, *Arrhenatherum*. We hope to seed some of this area with Upright Brome, which



has the property of reducing the fertility on which the coarse grasses thrive. Obviously, it is essential to maintain this clearance with annual mowing and removal of arisings. Subscriptions from the Friends ensure that we shall have the money to do this.

Mystery Mower

A few weeks after Bernard Hunt finished this work, several hundred yards of the remaining scrub were roughly cleared by Persons Unknown. Neither Iain Webb nor the agent for the landowner knows who did it. Whoever did it left the width of scrub beside the hedge. Nothing was treated, and so next year there will be a mass of spindly regrowth which our contractor says will be extremely hard to deal with. After this, the vehicle moved down the road, cutting both verges and leaving a mulch on the flowers. The driver also took a swing into the main area of flowers, and then, for some reason stopped. Mystery!

Lose Some, Win Some. Unfortunately, our clearance means that the butterfly records for Section 4 of our Transect Records will be adversely affected this year. I have not known it to be rich in butterflies, but there were always some familiar browns and whites. There should be many more flowers and butterflies next year, especially as it is such a sheltered area. The gain is that the rough, unexplained clearance has revealed a remarkable stretch of **Rock Roses** beside the hedge. Initially I found a little mound, 15ft by 3ft of the typical dark green leaves and bright yellow flowers of this pretty calcareous flower. Since the July rain, many more plants have emerged through the decaying brash and moss: a different kind of treasure trove.



Correction

Roger Lemon has asked me to include the following note. I do apologise for the mistakes. Julia

Roman Road and Fleam Dyke Butterfly Transect Records 2010, Correction by Roger Lemon

The article in Newsletter Number 34, February 2011 which, when published, was entitled "Roman Road and Fleam Dyke records 2011" is a summary of the 2010 butterfly transect results. Between submission and publication of the article, changes were made, resulting in some inaccuracies, which I would now like to correct.

In addition to the inaccurate title referred to above, the last sentence of paragraph 1, referring to the Roman Road, should be amended to read as follows:

"We started transect counts in 2007 and in 2010 we recorded our first Chalkhill Blues with 2 sightings and the first Marbled Whites since that first year, with 5 sightings". In 2007, 4 Marbled Whites were recorded.

The second paragraph, referring to earlier records of Chalkhill Blues on Fleam Dyke, was an addition to the original text. It makes an interesting point but should have been inserted after paragraph 3, sentence 1 which refers to the 2010 data for this species. I would also like to change the wording to read as follows:

"The first two Chalkhill Blues seen on the dyke since the 1970s were recorded by Roger and Stella Wolfe in August 2005. Transect counts were started in 2006 and these and other observations showed that numbers of this species remained at a low but variable level until the sharp increase observed in 2010".

The next sentence, referring to overall numbers of butterflies, is not directly related to this topic and should start a new paragraph.

Spring Flower News from West Wickham

Perry Morley emailed me on 4th March: "I can add a couple of pleasurable sightings of flora during the last few days: wood anemones (*Anemone nemorosa*) and the true oxlip (*Primula elatior*), both beside the Fleam Dyke & Roman Road footpath as it goes around the edge of Leys Wood, also more oxlips beside the West Wickham path 16 (just off the waymarked path to the Roman Road) beside Hare Wood. The true oxlip is often confused with the false oxlip which is a hybrid between the cowslip and primrose; the true one has paler flowers and shorter, fatter, leaves. It also does not have the five-pointed delicate red 'brush marks' that both the primrose and cowslip show and that Shakespeare described for Imogen's birthmark in *Cymbeline*. I have never seen so many oxlips before so I was very excited to find them."

Exciting Butterfly News

The spring butterfly numbers were good, but the numbers seen on our Transect walks in July were dismally low. There were dozens of **Marbled Whites** on Magog Down, but none have so far arrived on our sites, though one was seen in the Mill Road Cemetery!

On 27th June, Roger saw both a male and a female **Dark Green Fritillary** on Fleam Dyke between the A11 and Bedford Gap. DGs were seen in the same area by Nick Ballard on 9th July. On 18th July Vince Lea also saw two in the same area, one of which appeared to be egg laying. On 27th June, Roger also saw two DGs on the Roman Road near Worsted Lodge. On 17th July, Roger saw a newly hatched male **Chalkhill Blue** on Fleam Dyke, again between the A11 and Bedford Gap. (Dark Green Fritillaries lay their eggs on, or more commonly near, a good healthy clump of violets. The little spiky black caterpillars immediately go into hibernation among the leaf litter, emerging to feed in the spring of the following year.)

The reason that three people saw Dark Green Fritillaries on the Fleam Dyke three weeks running is because we have a **Butterfly Monitoring Transect Group** which is composed of Trish and Sam Agnew, Nick Ballard, Jo Darlington, Mike Gittos, Vince Lea, Julia Napier, Rosemarie Neusel and, of course, **Roger Lemon**, who organises the weekly transect walks on both sites, co-ordinates the results and does a great deal of recording himself.

My Thanks to a Mystery Helper

I try to check all the Information boards once a year and give them a clean with a wet cloth and a wipe with white spirit; but when I come to the board in the corner of the field beside the West Wickham Road, someone has already done the job. Thank you!

Alas, not all passers-by are so benign! Three out of five of our beautiful boards have been attacked with a blunt instrument. The force of the impact has cracked the immediate surrounding area but the surface seems to be holding up well, as promised by Shelley Signs. After a bit of hand-wringing, it is interesting to observe which bit of the board tempts an attack. 'You are here' seems to be the target of choice, which is odd because the other favourite graffito is 'We woz here'.

Last but not Least, our own Torchbearer in July 2012?

I received a few nominations for Torchbearers, but far and away the most obvious candidate was our founder, **Sam Agnew**. As a Liberal Democrat Councillor on the SCDC Conservation committee, he did a great deal to promote wildlife in our area. Sam was also instrumental in the planning and complex fund-raising for two impressive new village halls, at West Wickham and Castle Camps. He organised the planting of a Millennium Wood in Horseheath. Sam did all this in addition to a retirement job as Manager of Homerton College gardens, and despite chronic diabetes. Some years ago he ran the London Marathon for Diabetes UK, and raised £1300. We shall hear in August whether Sam has been chosen to run part of the Olympic torch route.

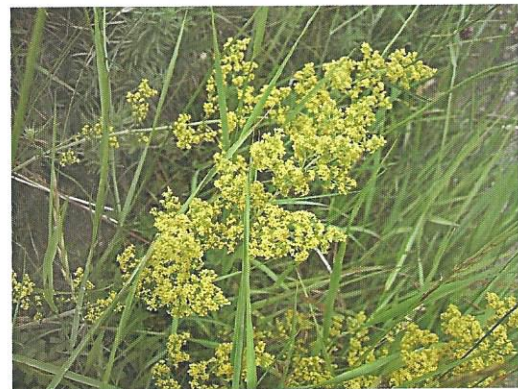
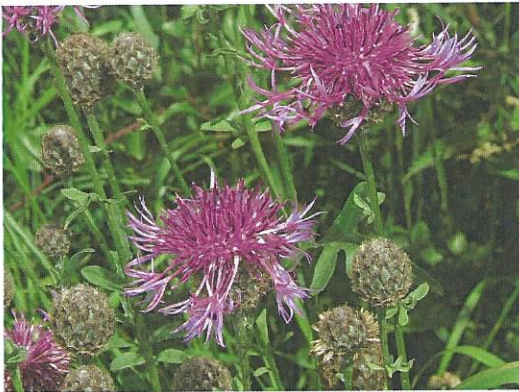


This is the main section of the clearance paid for by the Friends. An equal amount was left until next year. A few weeks later two thirds of this stretch was flailed but not fully cleared and nothing was treated. Do you know who was responsible? See page 8 and 9

However, there is a very surprising bonus. If you walk down from Copley Hill, seen in the background here, there is a length of uncut brambly scrub, after which you come to the partially cleared section. Look out yellow flowers near the hedge. Look more closely and you will see a length about 15ft by 3ft of Rock Roses emerging from inches of decaying matter and thick moss. **Does anyone have a record of Rock Roses being here?**



Below are some of the flowers that are now emerging on the cleared sections. Clockwise: Greater Knapweed, Lady's Bedstraw and Bird's foot trefoil.



Wanted!

Has anyone got, or know where I can get, good close-up digital photographs of Rock Roses, Common Knapweed, Hoary Plantain, Dropwort, Salad Burnet, Quaking Grass, Upright Brome, Hay Rattle, Small Scabious or other chalk grassland flowers?

My thanks to **Jack Harrison** for these four above and for many other flower and butterfly photographs.



Horseshoe Vetch in flower on the Fleam Dyke, south of A11, May 2010. This section is where most Chalkhill Blues are seen, though there are now regular sightings just north of Mutlow Hill.

This is also where Roger Lemon saw two **Dark Green Fritillaries** on 27th June 2011. There are plenty of violets, the food plant of the caterpillar, on this site.



Dark Green Fritillary, female: Vince

Massimo

Dark Green Fritillary: Peter Eeles

With thanks to the **UK Butterflies Stock Photo Library**



The Roman Road from Deadman's Hill, just north of Hildersham Road. I suggested to the Olympic Relay Office, that the Torch should be carried along this old route into Cambridge. Unlikely, but it might be carried along part of the final official route by Sam Agnew!

Best wishes, Julia Napier, July 2011