

# Green Gym



## Sonning Common

# "THE LOPPER"

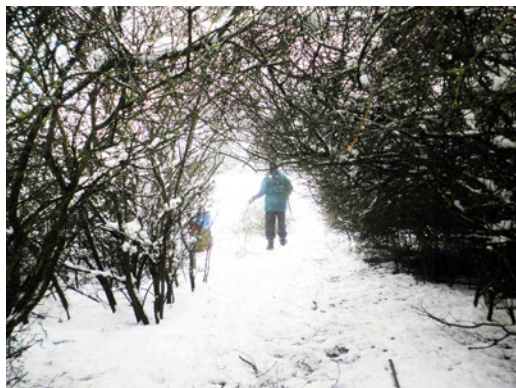
**full of little cuttings.**

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Welcome to the winter edition of the Lopper. For the first time we were forced by the weather to cancel some sessions, due to the impossibility of travelling and gaining access to sites. This happened both before Christmas and afterwards. Luckily in the New Year and at very short notice, Tony managed to organise some alternative tasks, so Kennylands received some special treatment this year!

To record the unusual weather this issue will concentrate both on the snowscapes that we did see on some of our regular sites as well as some taken by the owners, or locals, where SCGG attendance was impossible.

### Kennylands



When most people were snowed in at home and could not get out into the countryside, the only solution was to walk to the site nearest at Sonning Common. As a result Kennylands received some extra attention and the overgrown blackthorn and 'tunnel of love' were attacked. The resulting heaps of brash were burnt later when the weather improved, leaving a well tended scrub hedge.

"The Kennylands committee expressed their gratitude to the Green Gym for the effort put in on blackthorn clearance while working in cold and difficult conditions".



## Snowscapes

Watlington Hill: The stumps and fire site from one of our earlier sessions



### Aston Rowant

The A-track: where the Ash woodland is being cleared to allow natural regeneration of the native scrub species; which in turn will encourage wildlife diversity. The juniper has been split under the weight of snow and ice, but carries on growing as if it had been deliberately laid.



### Joyce Grove

Edward having lunch after some clearance work; the rear of the house and our favourite pagoda tree next to the topiary garden.

(photos courtesy of Anne Sanders)



## Withymead: A black and white world (courtesy of Joyce Shaw)



Around Christmas and New Year several task leaders were indisposed. Tony stepped into the breach to lead in their place and in recognition Robin presented him with two bottles of wine at the snow-free Pack and Prime Lane hedge-laying session.

Thanks from the whole group to the ever reliable Tony.

### **Oxfordshire Nature Conservation Forum AGM**

Mike Macleod and Eric Yarrow represented SCGG at the ONCF AGM held at Fisons Barn, Northmoor Trust, Little Wittenham on Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> February.

The Chairman Robin Buxton painted an encouraging picture of the forums progress and this was supported by the fact that a number of local conservation groups had applied and were voted in as new members on the day. One of these was one of our regular haunts Withymead, Goring.

Following the business of the AGM we were treated to two very interesting presentations:

1 - "Forestry Commission and Climate Change" by Mark Broadmeadow. Mark discussed current recent and on-going initiatives relating to climate change mitigation and adaption, including the National Assessment of Forestry and Climate Change and actions arising from the UK Low Carbon Transition Plan.

2 - "The Adaption of Ash to Climate Change" by Jo Clark. Most of this session took place whilst walking around Jo's Ash trails in Neptune Wood. Jo is currently undertaking a PhD investigating the adaption of Ash to climate change. This involves monitoring sites that have been planted with Ash from as far north as Scotland down to the South of France.

I think that Mike will join with me in saying that the whole event provided a superb opportunity to network with individuals from many conservation groups in our area. ... Eric Yarrow

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