

**Minutes of Oliver's Battery Countryside Group AGM held on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2010**  
in the conservation area

**Present** – Clare Shorter, Martin Keys, Norma Goodwin (who took minutes), Peter Land, Alison Hull, Helen Keys, Alex Land and Brian Shorter

**Apologies.**- Celia Cox, Ros Gunn, Gordon Gunn, Rebecca Hare and Ivan Arnold

**Minutes of 2009 AGM** –agreed and signed by the chairman, Clare Shorter.

**Matters Arising** - None.

**Chairman's Report**

The past year has been quiet with little member activity necessary as the plants have been quietly growing. We have been “resting on our laurels” if we had that non-native evergreen planted!

Phase 1 of planting is over; after 5 years the bushes and trees are reasonably well established with less than 10% losses. Work parties continued during 2009 but have not started this year due to the cold weather and much later spring (possible one month later in 2010). We started with the “Green Gym” on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2009!

During 2009 we

- Experimented in best grass height
- Bought a strimmer to cut the grassland ourselves when it needs doing. Brian and Peter have so far done a really good job at trimming the sward to encourage less competitive plants to grow. We all need to know how to use the strimmer if we want to.
- Hosted a Hampshire Wildlife Trust event on 20<sup>th</sup> May. Their members were impressed by our tree signs and what we have achieved.
- Mammal trapping in summer when we found wood mice.
- Found slow worms underneath our 3 felt mats.
- Represented the group at the Oliver's Battery Greening Campaign in St Mark's
- Used Hugh Corry to spray at the start and end of season

Plans for 2010

To start phase 2 of the project which is to continue to increase the biodiversity of the area, to record the plants and animals, but more importantly to create opportunities for the local community to enjoy this newly created natural resource.

Activities will include

- Maintaining and expanding the excellent website to record sightings, events etc. All contributions are welcome and should be sent to Peter.

- Developing a closer working partnership with the new parish council and look to sharing the funding of the maintenance of the area otherwise we will have no income.
- Seek to have more friendly signs at both entrances to the conservation area.
- Recruit more members
- Create events to attract local people – eg, the walk on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> June. There will be an advert in Community News thanks to Alex. Also to have a presence at the Oliver's Battery Fete on Saturday 11th September.
- Label trees
- Control rabbits as the number of holes is increasing.
- Work party dates and jobs to be discussed at the end of this meeting.
- Seeds – 50 square metres. Mixture to be used soon.

Thanks were given to the members for their solid support over the past 5 years. A goodbye to the Gunn family and a welcome to Alex and her design expertise.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Balance in current account as at 31 March 2009 was £1605.59. **Income** for 2010 was £50 in membership fees. **Expenditure** strimmer £324.94, website fees £25, Corry Countryside Services for spraying £22.91 – total £372.85. **Balance at 31<sup>st</sup> March 2010 £1282.74.**

**Assets** of 2 first aid kits, laminator, 10 pairs men's gloves, 10 pairs ladies' gloves, 1 plug planter, seed trays, 3 hoes, 2 water carriers, 2 pairs shears, 2 hay rakes, 1 pruner, "The Wildflower Key: how to identify wildflowers, trees and shrubs in Britain and Ireland" by Francis Rose ( a book) and a photo album.

Payments not cashed £226.54 – BTCV insurance.

### **Election of Officers**

<b>Chair</b>	Clare Shorter proposed by Norma Goodwin seconded by Martin Keys
<b>Treasurer</b>	Martin Keys proposed by Clare Shorter seconded by Norma Goodwin
<b>Secretary</b>	Norma Goodwin proposed by Martin Keys seconded by Helen Short
<b>Committee</b>	Alison Hull proposed by Clare Shorter seconded by Norma Goodwin Peter Land proposed by Norma Goodwin seconded by Brian Shorter Alex Land proposed by Clare Shorter seconded by Brian Shorter Brian Shorter proposed by Norma Goodwin seconded by Clare Shorter

**Peter is also webmaster and group photographer**

### **Events for 2010-2011**

**Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> June** – the planned walk around Oliver's Battery starting at the Battery and finishing at Yew Hill. To be advertised in Community News. To include setting mammal traps, looking out for moths and slow worms, netting insects and plant identification. History of the Battery and talk about proposed village sign (Norma Goodwin) and use of water diviners (Norma Goodwin). Possibly butterfly cakes at Yew Hill. Clare Shorter to ask Lyn Fomison of HBC to open reservoir field.

**Friday 16<sup>th</sup> – Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> July** – Hampshire Wildlife Trust dance and art alongside the Itchen Navigation. Participate in a land draw next to Kingsgate tennis court. See HWT website [www.hwt.org.uk](http://www.hwt.org.uk) .

**Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> July** – Yew Hill – Butterfly Conservation. A good time of year to see Chalk Hill Blues, many other butterflies and lovely wild flowers. Leader Ivan Arnold tel: 01962 866706. Meet 10.30am at end of Old Kennels Lane at junction with Port Lane and Millers Lane, Oliver's Battery. Map Ref: SU 451 269 sat nav SO22 4JY.

**Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> September** – Oliver's Battery Fete. OBCG to have a table and display with A4 map hand-out of reserve location and other OBCG information. Possibly an event for children.

### **Work Parties for 2010 - 2011**

**Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> May** - daytime – strimming of grass by Brian and Peter

Spanish bluebells have been removed but check for re-emergence.

Continue to label trees.

Control buddleia

Keep rough grass low so as not to swamp other plants

Plan more work parties as the growing season progresses.

### **Any Other Business**

Rabbit control – action - Brian Shorter – to contact John Berry via Hampshire Wildlife Trust

Complain about deterioration of bench – action - Clare Shorter

Consider purchase of another bench – approach Hampshire Wildlife Trust – action - Clare Shorter

Chairman to write to OB Parish Council about funding BTCV insurance and to enquire if the PC insurance covers the conservation area - action – Clare Shorter

Collect unpaid membership fees – action – Martin Keys

Check contents of First Aid Kits and replace as necessary – action – Norma Goodwin and Clare Shorter

Sell one of the water containers – action – Clare Shorter.

Risk assessment for strimmer

Advertise our activities on gate posts.

Make conservation area more user friendly – ask PC about changing sign – action – Clare Shorter.