

The Oliver's Battery Countryside Group

The Oliver's Battery Countryside Group have had a busy few months. On 8th June at the Parish fete we showed local people and the Mayor of Winchester around the wildlife area. In July we said goodbye to our five Duke of Edinburgh students who had helped us maintain the area over the past seasons. Any local young people are welcome to join us to gain experience with this community project.

All through July and August we worked our way around the area cutting the strong growing grasses and raking off the hay. This allows space and the right soil conditions for the wildflowers to grow. The lovely summer has provided very good conditions for butterflies. There are pictures of butterflies up at both OBCA entrances so you have a chance to identify them.

Despite the unfriendly entrance signs (soon to be changed) the only "dangers" are stinging nettles, some bramble prickles and thorny bushes, and rabbit holes. Children are welcome to explore the hazel tunnel and hidden areas. We hope you have enjoyed picking the blackberries.

Have you sat on the new bench yet? It was donated in memory of her mother by our member and retired Parish Councillor Norma Goodwin, who has placed poems around the area.

The shrubs and trees were planted in 2006 and are starting to mature giving a very good show of berries at this time of year. Perhaps you remember the area before it was created in its present form? As we go into the autumn and winter we will start cutting back some of the bushes. We would welcome help with this if anyone has an hour or two to spare.

We are probably the best countryside group in Oliver's Battery. Have a look at our website www.oliversbatterycountysidegroup.org.uk. Respond to anything above by email or phone Chairman Alison on 855772 or Secretary Clare on 852136.