

# SOCCT

Sparrowgrove Oakwood Copse Conservation Trust

[www.socct.org](http://www.socct.org)

## **REMEMBER WHEN WE BOUGHT YOUR LOCAL WOODS ?**

Greetings fellow woodland neighbours.

It seems incredible that the meeting we held to gauge local interest in buying the copses was held in January 2008. It was extremely well attended and a sea of hands went up in the room when everyone was asked who would contribute and/or volunteer.

As you may be aware, after a lot of work by a few local people, SOCCT was formed to purchase and maintain the copses and a plan was made to enhance enjoyment of them by embarking on projects to increase local interest. We have been looking after the copses since then by canvassing Parish Councils and local concerns for funds and emailing people to remind them of the once monthly working parties.

Despite the many who made a promise to volunteer, we only have a few people turning out each month to work on clearing and maintenance, meaning that we haven't enough people to work on projects within the copses. The equipment we use now mostly belongs to the current volunteers but we will need to obtain some for use on a regular basis specifically in the copses.

## **WE WOULD LIKE TO INVITE YOU TO OFFER THE TRUST SOME REAL SUPPORT**

### **VOLUNTEERING**

- Have you got any ideas for projects and if so, would you be willing to organise a group to turn your idea into reality? Examples are a nature study group or a picnic area.
- Join our once monthly working party (2 hours). Even if you only come every 2 or 3 months, if enough people volunteer, we would have a good turnout each time. Fence maintenance, clearing paths and rubbish collection are regular jobs which are currently being done by the same small group each month.
- Get your children interested so that when the current group runs out of steam, we have people to take over from them.

### **CONTRIBUTING**

How about an annual standing order for a small amount as a regular donation?

For example £20 a year or £2 / £3 a month? As we are a charity, if you are a taxpayer, your donation will be enhanced by the tax man should you choose to gift aid your donation.

If enough local people agreed to do this, we could fund some really interesting projects.

We have equipment and insurance to pay for. In addition, we routinely spend about £2,000 a year on tree maintenance. We sometimes need materials for items like wood for fencing.

How about thinking how else we can raise funds and if you come up with a good idea, would you be prepared to organise it yourself?

### **JOINING US**

We would also like some more members.

Come on local folk, follow your raised hands and give SOCCT a small amount of your time. The copses are a wonderful local asset which we are sure you would miss if we lost them.