



## Swaines Green Spring Newsletter

### Conservation Work:

This winter's conservation work has concentrated on Lovelocks and Middle Lincolns fields, the two most important areas for flora and fauna within the Swaines Green site. Most of the hay cutting on Lovelocks was carried out by Countrycare, using cutting machinery towed by a small tractor and hand operated brush cutters. A brilliant job was done by all, especially Countrycare volunteers, but unfortunately, several wet days immediately followed and the damp hay has been left in piles in corners of the field to be deposited of later. More luck with the weather and help from the Epping Forest Conservation Volunteers saw Middle Lincolns successfully hay cut, scrub removed and burnt during the New Year period. We are all looking forward to an increase in the wild flowers that were recorded last spring and summer.

### Forties Fields:

If you have been to Swaines Green in the last few months you will have seen temporary metal fencing around part of the land, towards Bury Lane and Bolt Cellar Lane. This area is part of Forties Field and has always been in private ownership but up to now remained largely unenclosed. The public rights of way that run from Lower Swaines to Bury Lane alongside St John's School playing field, and from Thatched Cottage, Bury Lane to Shaftesbury Farm, Lindsey Street (known as Bolt Cellar Lane) remain open.

We have spoken to the owners of the land and are pleased that, like the previous owners, they will allow us to use part of their land for our May Fayre which this year is on Saturday 5th May. This includes the Wishing Tree and land around it as normal.

You may have noticed some tree works, these have been carried out in consultation with the district council's tree officers and other work being done is being carried out with the help and advice of conservation experts. Our conservation officer and other members of the Swaines Green committee were invited to visit the site and all were extremely pleased with the work being done there.

### Dog walkers

We recently received a request to clear low hanging branches and tidy the ground on the new path that is being trodden alongside the fence to make it easier for dog walkers to use. We are pleased to be able to report that one of our conservation workers carried out this request the very next day.

Swaines Green May Fayre - Saturday 5th May 11am to 5pm

Hope to see you all there!