

# Epping Forest Countrycare

As Epping Forest District Councils countryside management service, Countrycare aims to maintain and enhance the natural environment for the benefit of both local people and wildlife. This is done by creating and maintaining habitats, improving public access and increasing awareness of our rural heritage. Countrycare's team of four paid members of staff work with schools, volunteers, youth groups, wildlife organisations and national agencies, amongst others, encouraging participation in practical environmental projects. **Epping Forest Countrycare**, c/o Planning Services, Civic Offices, High Street, Epping, Essex, CM16 4BZ.

01992 788 203. [countrycare@eppingforestdc.gov.uk](mailto:countrycare@eppingforestdc.gov.uk)

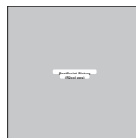
 **The Tree and Landscape team** deal with tree and landscape issues in connection with Planning applications; applications for works to trees within conservation areas; making and administering of Tree Preservation Orders; liaising with members of the public on tree issues and coordinating the Tree Warden Scheme within the District. Contact Chris Neilan on **01992 564117**

**The Historic Buildings, Conservation Areas and Urban Design Team.** Deal with most matters relating to historic buildings and conservation areas, including grants, enhancement projects, buildings at risk, repairs, enforcement, prosecutions and advice. They also advise on the design of new development, prepare planning and development briefs and design guidance leaflets as well as overseeing the Waltham Abbey HERS (Heritage Economic Regeneration Scheme). Contact Paul Sutton or Karen Rolfe on **01992 564119**

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# E.Y.E

Enhancing Your Environment  
Countryside and Conservation News  
Issue 04 - September - December 2004

Welcome to the fourth edition of EYE! Another quarterly round up of news and events from the built and natural environment conservation teams.

This issue covers topics such as tree planting and aftercare, the "Local List" initiative, a tree quiz and much more. Plus Countrycare says farewell to staff member Benjamin Sanderson who has been with the service for the last four and a half years. We also have our usual round up of what has been happening and some volunteer dates for the next four months giving you the opportunity to work with Countrycare on environmental projects across your district.

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## Friends of Swaines Green

The May Day Fayre was a great success, with about 300 or 400 present at a time and 1500 people in total attending. Eleanor Laing, our local MP, opened the proceedings followed by members of St John's Church choir singing a traditional Essex May Day Carol. Attractions included folk dancing by Chelmsford Folk Dance Group, Captain Obadiah Rumble dressed in the role of a Captain from the Essex Foot of 1642 who was most disapproving of the May Princesses and Maypole dancing by Coopersale Hall School.

There were llamas, and owls from the Epping Forest Owl Rescue group. Many local groups ran their own stalls, including the Army Cadets, St



*Maypole dancers at the fare*

John's School, Epping Infants' School, the Brownies and Guides, as well as some commercial and charity stalls.

The butterfly and bumblebee survey on 13th June found that Swaines Green is supporting all but one of the bumble bee groups we were asked to observe.

The next event will be the Lantern Walk on September 4th, running from 8:00pm until 9:30pm. The Green will be lit up and artwork from local artists and schools illuminated and we are hoping to organise some live music groups. Everyone is welcome to this free event. For further information please contact Ian Anderson on 01992 574909 or Shanne Woodhouse on 01992 561645.



*Costumed characters add to the atmosphere.*

As we do not have livestock to use for grazing, we use cutting as a technique to manage grassland sites. Once a year the grassland is cut and all the cuttings are removed. With a garden lawn you have to either feed it or cut it frequently and leave the cuttings on so that the nutrients can be returned to the soil. This is not the case with grassland and wildflower meadows as here the aim is to reduce the nutrient levels. This is done to prevent thick, long grasses from swamping it and out competing the wildflowers. So to benefit the wildflowers all the cuttings are removed and the nutrient levels are kept low.

Another reason for scrub control is where the scrub has become too old and gappy. Different plants and animals use different ages of scrub so it is beneficial to keep cutting the scrub back in patches to create a mosaic of different aged stands. This provides a greater variety of wildlife with suitable areas of habitat. Most scrub species such as hawthorn, blackthorn and elder can be cut right back to ground level (coppiced) and they will then grow back again quite quickly. This work can appear to be very brutal as it may open up large areas which were screened before but it very quickly loses its harsh appearance and will grow back more thickly providing excellent nesting sites and potential food for birds and other wildlife.

### The art of coppicing.

Coppicing can also be used for woodland management. Many of our native trees thrive under a coppice regime. The trees should be cut low to the ground and at a slight angle to ensure that rainwater runs off and does not rot the cut face. The cut trunk is called a 'stool' and from it multiple 'poles' will regrow making the tree more bushy. Coppicing helps to prolong the life of a tree by rejuvenating it and areas are usually cut in rotation, often over a period of 15 to 20 years.

Hopefully, this brief explanation of two of the most widely used methods of countryside management have helped to explain why what may at first seem brutal is actually very beneficial.

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## Looking After the Trees

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Trees need lots of care and attention in their first five years of life after planting. In particular regular watering, during the summer or warmer months is essential and keeping the area

weed free around the stem too. If the stakes of your tree are positioned far enough away to prevent chaffing of the tree stem it should not be necessary to loosen the ties.

Planting a tree is well worth the effort as it gives us the chance to leave a lasting legacy that will benefit people and wildlife alike.

## Countryside Management Explained.

Some countryside management projects always seem beneficial, for example pond creation, but some work can seem brutal and counterproductive. Projects such as tree felling can seem to go against the very philosophy of conservation. In the last issue of EYE we took a brief look at pollarding, this time we will examine the benefits of scrub clearance and coppicing.

### To clear or not to clear?

Scrub is the collective name for a variety of shrubs and small trees. If open ground is left unmanaged it will soon be colonised by scrub. Scrub can be a valuable wildlife habitat in its own right used by many species of plant and animal but in some cases it can be detrimental to the original habitat type. This can be true of grassland. Unimproved grassland (grassland which has not had fertilisers added to it) is very scarce in Britain and is a valuable habitat for wildlife due to the range of wildflowers it supports. If such areas are allowed to become scrubbed up they will lose their diversity and, therefore, their wildlife value will decrease. To prevent scrub colonising, the area must be cut or grazed to prevent the scrub from growing. In the case of Moorland management, burning can also be used for the same purpose.

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## Sounds Like a tree!

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The answers to the following clues are all names of trees but the clues relate to a word that is either spelt the same as the tree name or sounds like it or almost sounds like it! The usual prize of a whole extra biscuit for the first person to submit a correct solution applies!

1. A coating formed by hard water on the inside surface of a pipe.
2. Strip of pebbles or the sand between high and low water marks.
3. Greenish brown eye colour.
4. Type of clothes sometimes worn by policemen.
5. Docklands Light Railway Station next to the University of East London.
6. Conceal a card or other small object in the hand, especially as part of a trick.
7. Social or romantic appointment.
8. Keeps teeth in place.
9. Two of a kind.
10. A type of female even-toed ungulate.
11. Suffer a mental and physical decline.
12. Neat in dress and appearance.
13. Church official.
14. Pattern of a blue and white plate.
15. One of the Tower Hamlets.
16. A metal ring or fitting which is tightened under a threaded nut to form a seal.
17. Powdery residue after high temperature oxidation.
18. Didn't do socrates any good.
19. Rod serving as an axis on which something rotates.
20. Old story that has become tedious.

Our quiz comes courtesy of Countrycare Volunteer Peter Spence. Answers can be found at the back.

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## Farewell

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I have been Assistant Countryside Manager at Countrycare for just over 4 1/2 years. (I know this is no record by Paul's standards!) But my time has come to move on. So as of the 20th August I will be packing my bags and embarking on a long term ambition to travel around the world. My journey begins in San Francisco and will end sometime next year in India. I would like to say it has been a pleasure working with such a diverse mix of people over the past few years. Wishing you all the best for the future. **Benjamin Sanderson, Assistant Countryside Manager.**

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## More Local Nature Reserves & access for all at Home Mead

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August will see Countrycare once again undertaking a project to improve access. This time a 350m hardened pathway will be installed at Home Mead. Funding for the project has been secured from the Essex Environment Trust who have provided the funding through the Landfill Tax.

Along with the pathway there will be improved access through a larger kissing gate, on site interpretation and a new pond that will benefit local residents through flood storage and increase the wildlife value of the site. It is with all this in mind that the site will soon be declared a Statutory Local Nature Reserve as recommended by English Nature, the government's advisory organisation on nature conservation. This will be along with Weald Common and Thornwood Common bringing the total number of Local Nature Reserves for Epping Forest District to 9.

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## Essex gets a County flower

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Plantlife, the wild flower conservation charity, has recently devised a list of wild flower emblems for each British County. Wild flowers were selected big brother style by public nomination. And the winner for Essex is...the poppy.

The initiative was set up to highlight the threats our wild flowers are facing - a recent Plantlife report shows that on average every county in the UK is losing one species of wild plant every year.

The tree wardens used two stakes for the trees on the church site because it was an exceptionally exposed site.

It is important to position the stakes far enough away from the tree to prevent rubbing and damage to the stem.

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## Spiral Guards and Strimmer Guards

Depending on the location of the tree it is usually crucial to protect the lower stem from damage, whether this is by animals or machinery such as those dreaded strimmers.

Spiral guards are sufficient to prevent rabbit damage to tree stems, anything larger than a rabbit such as deer will require a much more robust and bigger tree guard. Spiral guards were used at the churchyard.

Strimmer guards are usually more important in an urban location especially if the trees are planted in grassed areas. Strimmers are responsible for a large percentage of stem damage to trees. We also used these in the churchyard because the area in which the

trees are located is grassed and cut regularly so the threat of strimmers was a possibility.

There are several types of strimmer guards available on the market; we used a cone shaped guard, which keeps the strimmer well away from the stem of the tree.

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## Mulching and Watering

As soon as the tree is in the tree pit and backfilled with soil, it is really important to give it a good drink of water.

Once planted firmly into the ground, a good thick layer of mulch is required to keep the area around the tree free of weeds, and grass in particular, which compete with the tree for valuable water. The area of mulch required around the tree varies on the size of the tree, however as a rough guide a minimum radius would be 1m or 2m diameter at a depth of at least 10cm. This also has the added benefit of keeping the strimmer away from the tree stem.

With the exception of the wild cherry, most of the stock used to plant on the day was container grown.

### Tree Planting Techniques

The many steps to tree planting were explained to the tree wardens as follows:

1. Dig a tree pit to the depth of the nursery tide mark / soil level on the tree stem
2. Dig the tree pit wide enough to accommodate the tree.
3. Scour the edges of the tree pit with a fork to allow for root penetration.
4. Drive in the stake or two stakes positioned to support the tree from the prevailing wind.
5. Take the tree out of its container / wrap and soak the roots in water.
6. Place the tree in the pit and spread out its roots.
7. Spread any roots growing in a circular direction or cut if necessary.
8. Back fill the soil around the roots and firm down as

you go to squeeze out excess air in the pit.

9. Tie the tree to the stakes with a tree tie.
10. Attach a rabbit spiral guard around the base of the tree.
11. Attach a strimmer guard around the base of the tree.
12. Water the tree
13. Spread mulch around the top of the tree pit to a depth of 10cm to prevent unwanted weed growth.

### Tree Stakes and Ties

There are many types of tree ties available on the market today, ranging from rubber to Hessian. At the tree planting exercise at the church, hessian ties were used because they will biodegrade after three years.

There are many different techniques for staking a tree. Normally one stake protruding from the soil for 1/3 of the total tree height will be sufficient for most trees.

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### Countrycare Volunteer Days

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Volunteer tasks take place every Thursday and on the first Sunday and Tuesday in the month and all are welcome to join in. Projects undertaken include tree planting, hedge laying, haymaking, scrub clearance and bridge building. See overleaf for details of some of the projects in the next four months. If you are interested in joining Countrycare's volunteer group please feel free to give us a call at the Countrycare office on (01992) 788203 and we will be glad to give you some more information. All are welcome and no previous experience is necessary.

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### 'Beyond Suburbia' - Regeneration and Development in the Rural North of Epping Forest

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The Council's Leisure Services Department has secured funding from Essex Rural Renaissance Fund to enable a consultation and research study to be carried out in rural areas

of the district, covering from The Rodings and Willingale in the north-east to Roydon and Nazeing in the north-west.

The study aims to identify opportunities and potential for cultural development, including sports and leisure, arts and heritage and community development and to assess potential for improving current services and provision including health development, crime reduction and environmental care, and for the development of cultural tourism and farm regeneration.

People living and working in the rural north are invited to be involved in community consultation, which will include participating in open days/evenings at local village halls and face to face interviews at local pubs and shops. Local volunteers are also needed to assist with the delivery of consultation sessions and will be fully trained in this.

Anyone wishing to be involved in the consultation process should contact Alison Kennedy at Wavehill Consultants on 01545 571711.

## Countrycare's volunteer diary dates

### September

Thursday	2	Matching Airfield
**NB - there will be no projects on Sunday 5th		
Thursday	9	Old Shire Lane
Thursday	23	All Saints Church
Thursday	30	Hainault Forest



### October

Sunday	3	Chigwell Row Wood/Hainault Forest
Tuesday	5	Chigwell Row Wood
Thursday	7	Chigwell Row Wood

### November

Tuesday	2	Tanner's Cottage, Moreton
Thursday	4	Chigwell Row Wood
Sunday	7	World's End, Roydon
Thursday	11	Tanner's Cottage, Moreton
Thursday	25	Oldshire Lane, Waltham Abbey

### December

Thursday	2	Church Lane LNR
Monday	6	Church Lane LNR
Thursday	9	Norton Heath
Thursday	16	Xmas Coppice - Home Mead
Sunday	19	Xmas Coppice - Home Mead

Although not all listed here, there is a volunteer project every Thursday and the first Tuesday and Sunday of every month. If you would like details of all our projects, please give us a call on (01992) 788 203 and we will send you a copy of the finalised details in our monthly update sheet **as the above list may be subject to change.** Unless otherwise stated there will be a pick up from Loughton Station at 9.30 am for all the Thursday and Sunday projects and we will aim to have you back there for 4.30 pm. Please bring a packed lunch, sturdy boots and plenty of enthusiasm. We'll ply you with tea, coffee and biscuits to help keep your energy levels up!

The choice of tree species to be planted included wild cherry, rowan, field maple and birch which were specifically chosen because they were native species which fitted well into the surrounding natural landscape.

Previous planting has already been carried out in the churchyard and includes a new native hedgerow on the original churchyard boundary to replace an existing dying elm hedge. There is also a new native hedge planted on the new boundary, close to where the memorial trees are now. The trees and labour for doing this were provided by the council's Free Tree Scheme and assistance from Epping Forest Countrycare.

## PLANTING A TREE

### Equipment

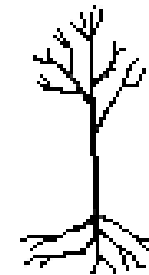
For planting the trees the following equipment was required:

- Spade
- Spiral guard
- Secateurs
- Strimmer guards
- Water
- Mulch

Stakes

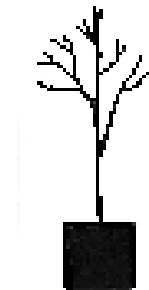
Ties

There are a number of different types of trees available as stock from a tree nursery, the following diagrams illustrate these types:



### Bare root -

Obtained from garden centres., nurseries or by mail order. Plant between October and March



### Container grown-

More expensive than bare root but can be planted all year round with success. Beware of trees left too long in small containers



### Root bailed -

Generally used for evergreens. Root bail should not be distributed during planting

Conservation Section has circulated a draft "Local List" to each Parish and Town Council for review and comment. Suggestions of any further inclusions to the "Local List", based on a set of 'Assessment Criteria', are now being requested. Criteria for inclusion on the "Local List" include authenticity (i.e. the building should be substantially unaltered and should retain most of its original features), architectural significance (i.e. the building might be a good example of a particular local building type or display particularly good craftsmanship or innovation)

and/or historic interest (the building is associated with well known local people or historic events).

If you would like to put forward any buildings or structures that are not statutorily listed, but meet the assessment criteria for inclusion in the "Local List", or if you should require any further information about the project, please contact Karen Rolfe, Assistant Conservation Officer, on 01992 564068, or Paul Sutton, Principal Officer (Conservation and Environment) on 01992 564119. Suggestions are requested to be submitted by August 31, 2004.

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### Tree Planting In St Thomas's Church Yard, Upshire Village

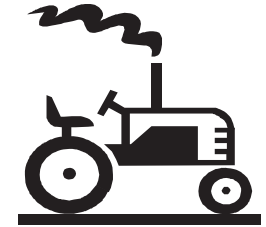
On a cold winter morning 10 March 2004, a group of tree wardens gathered together in St Thomas's churchyard, Upshire Village to learn the art of tree planting.

Not that the task of tree planting is difficult but it is useful, especially for those who have never done it before, to see how it is done in practice. It also useful to familiarise yourself with the different equipment available

to help the tree establish in the early years of its life.

We needed a site for the purpose and fortunately one of the local tree wardens from Upshire had involvement in getting memorial trees planted in her village churchyard, and even had six native trees to plant that had been individually donated to the church by members of the parish. What a perfect opportunity to learn from. The area in question is a piece of land that is an extension to the churchyard and was donated approximately two years ago by Ernest Padfield.

### Countrycare Project Details



**Matching Airfield, Abbess Roding** is one of PH's favourites and one where Countrycare has worked since 1994. This privately owned former WWII airfield now provides an ideal habitat for wildflowers such as Common spotted orchids, Wild basil, Restharrow and Oxe-eye daisy to name but a few. A good web site about the airfield is [www.merlinsroared.tripod.com](http://www.merlinsroared.tripod.com) This Autumn's volunteer day will be grass cutting and scrub control. **Meet:** 10.15 matching airfield, lay-by on Anchor Lane, east of Matching Green. **Grid Reference:** TL 552 113. (Private ownership)

### Old Shire Lane, Waltham Abbey

We will be taking a trip down to Old Shire Lane for a general cut and tidy up and then later in the year to do some hedgelaying across the front of the site. Since we began managing the site in 2000 we have planted over 1500 trees, established a pond and created a new wildflower meadow. We are gradually seeing changes on this site that will hopefully in the future become an established nature area. **Meet:** 10.00am, Old Shire Lane, round about off jnct 26, M25. **Grid Reference:** TL TQ 403 999

### All Saints Churchyard, Epping Upland

We will be giving this lovely churchyard its final cut of the year just to make sure that it is looking smart and to remove some more nutrients to give the already impressive array of wildflowers an added boost. **Meet:** 10.00am, Parking at the church off Epping Road. **Grid Reference:** TL 444 045.

### Hainault Forest

We will be joining forces to carry out woodland work in Hainault Forest for the first time in partnership with the Woodland Trust. **Meet:** 10.00am, car park for Hainault Forest, off Romford Road (A112). **Grid Reference:** TQ 478 929

**Chigwell Row Wood LNR** is our fantastic remnant of Hainault Forest containing a variety of habitats from ancient hornbeam and oak pollards through to relict heathland. The wood is probably ranked within the top 40 of sites with over a 100 veteran trees in Britain. In October, we will be cutting and expanding the heathland area and in November we will be carrying on with our coppicing and pollarding works. **Meet:** 10.00am, car park off Lodge Close, off B173, Chigwell. **Grid Reference:** TQ 460 931.

**Tanner's Cottage, Moreton** (See "Countrycare Turns Time Team" article for more details). **Meet:** 10.00am, top car park at the Nag's Head Pub Church Road, Moreton. **Grid reference:** TL 534 070.

**World's End, Roydon** is a County Wildlife Site that contains a mixture of mainly hazel coppice surrounded by more mature ash, oak, willow and black poplar - one of which was recently chosen by the Tree Council as one of Britain's 50 Great Trees! Once again we will be returning to carry out coppicing work. **Meet:** 10.00am, East End Farm yard off Harlow Road, Roydon. **Grid Reference:** TL 419 101.

**Church Lane** has changed an enormous amount from the arable field it was in June 1989 to the beautiful wildflower Meadow it is today. The site has a dual purpose as it was originally set up as a flood relief scheme to protect North Weald from flooding but thanks to a partnership between the Land Drainage department and Countrycare it was designed, and continues to be managed, for the benefit of wildlife too. We will be spending our time here continuing the tree planting from last year and finishing off the willow bird hide started by our young people's group "Roots" earlier in the year. **Meet:** 10.00am, Park at end of access track for sewage works, off Church Lane. **Grid reference:** TL 497 045.

#### **Norton Heath.**

This day will be spent carrying out woodland management by thinning out some more of the silver birch trees. **Meet:** 10 am, old cut off from A414, adjacent to the site, Norton Heath. **Grid Reference:** TL 603 042

## "Local List" Initiative

The Conservation Section of the District Council's Planning Service has now compiled a draft "List of Buildings of Local Architectural or Historic Interest", also known more commonly as the "Local List", for each Parish and Town within the District.



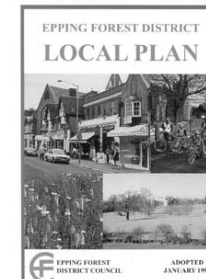
One of the buildings in Waltham Abbey on the 'Local List'.

While buildings on the "Local List" do not enjoy statutory status, they are considered to be of local importance in that they contribute

to the historic, architectural or visual character of the District.

As part of the proposed Local Plan Alterations, a new policy is being introduced that would ensure that development proposals take fully into account the historic value and contribution buildings included on the "Local List" may make to the character of the District. It is intended that the introduction of this new policy would give some protection to these buildings from inappropriate extension or demolition.

In conjunction with the current circulation of the Local Plan Alterations - First Deposit (June 2004) and the associated public consultation exercise, the



- The Abbey Church, where the York stone paving on sections of the external forecourt is being repaired and re-laid;
- 22 Sun Street, where a comprehensive external refurbishment program is in progress;
- The Town Hall, where a complete repair of the existing windows has been undertaken;
- 3 & 4 Church Street, where work involves major repairs to the roof timbers and timber frame structure of this early grade II listed building;
- The Old Courthouse at 31-33 Highbridge Street, where the roof of this important grade II\* listed building will be repaired and re-slatted;

- Market Square Dental Practice at 2A Market Square involving the repair and renewal of the timber sash windows; and



#### Scaffolding going up at 22 Sun Street

- Reconstruction of the collapsed portion of the Abbey Gardens Wall near the Darby Drive car park.

For more information on the HERS, please contact Karen Rolfe, Assistant Conservation Officer, on **01992 564068**

**Home Mead** has benefited from a great deal of attention this year with our epic path-building project back in August. This time we will be carrying out some woodland work by thinning out some of the trees but the visit will also give us an opportunity to see how the path looks a few months on. **Meet:** 10.00am, at the entrance to the site at the junction of Clays Lane and England's Lane, Loughton. Please park sympathetically in roads nearby (please **do not** use the golf course car park). **Grid Reference:** TQ 438 978.

#### Chigwell Row Wood LNR Update.

In the last episode of EYE we explained a little about the wood's history, which goes a long way to explaining why the wood is so special. In this update we can tell you a little more about the results from the fly and beetle survey work undertaken by the Oxford Natural History Museum in 2002.

A total of 391 species were recorded, 286 Diptera (true flies) and 105 Coleoptera (beetles). Fifty-six species of conservation concern were recorded, and a further 24 species, which are considered to have a localised distribution. We also found two species, which were recently described as new to science. 98 species of fungus gnats were found, almost 20% of the British Fauna, of which 16 had conservation status. In comparison, the much larger Epping Forest, surveyed over several decades, had 50% of the British Fauna.

Thirty four percent of the Diptera and Coleoptera recorded are considered to be dependent as larvae on decaying wood or associated fungi and of these 29 % had conservation status or had only a localised distribution. The results show that the rarer species in Chigwell Row Wood LNR are predominantly associated with ancient woodland. This illustrates the high quality of the woodland. Due to favourable management, i.e. pollarding, scrub clearance and scattering of dead wood, the scarcer species are spreading into the younger areas of woodland. The results show that dead wood is extremely important in Chigwell Row Wood LNR and many of the species recorded are scarce.

## Countrycare turns Time Team (well sort of)

In May this year, Countrycare was approached by Essex County Council's, Countryside Archaeological Advisor, Adrian Gascoyne to see if we could help with the management of a medieval moated site near Moreton.

Known as "Tanners Cottage" this scheduled monument lies beside a bridleway that runs northwest from Embley's Farm (Binders) to Greens.

Archaeologically the site is in good condition with the island largely undisturbed. The monument is owned by Jim Collins of Newhouse Farm (Ashlylins Organic Farm) as he is being encourage by Adrian to sign up to a 5 year management agreement. Countrycare has agreed to help out.

The initial works will involve the felling and coppicing of trees and scrub from the island site, which, if left, would eventually begin to damage the archaeology.

### Sounds like a tree! - Solutions

- |            |              |
|------------|--------------|
| 1. Fir     | 10. Yew      |
| 2. Beech   | 11. Pine     |
| 3. Hazel   | 12. Spruce   |
| 4. Plane   | 13. Elder    |
| 5. Cypress | 14. Willow   |
| 6. Palm    | 15. Poplar   |
| 7. Date    | 16. Olive    |
| 8. Gum     | 17. Ash      |
| 9. Pear    | 18. Hemlock  |
|            | 19. Spindle  |
|            | 20. Chestnut |
- Well done if you got them all correct!



## Abbey HERS Update

### Waltham Abbey HERS Update

The formal grant-offering period for the Waltham Abbey Heritage Economic Regeneration Scheme (HERS) ended on March 31st. Approximately £350,000 in grant money has been offered under the three-year scheme to 20 eligible projects within the town centre. Applicants to the scheme contributed up to 50% of the cost of the eligible repair and refurbishment work undertaken, with the HERS grant making up the remaining 50%. The combined economic input to the scheme is over



### 3 & 4 Church Street - work in progress

£750,000, which has meant considerable progress has been made towards the revitalization of buildings within the Waltham Abbey conservation area.

The total grant budget that was made available under the scheme has now been committed to approved grant applications. Projects that are well underway or that will begin by mid summer are: