

## Bulletin No 29 Maintenance news

### Riverside path

Following all the improvements made to the riverside path since last autumn, Peter has now been mowing the path, to stop it getting overgrown. As far as we know, this is the first time the path has ever been mown. He plans to continue this as necessary throughout the summer.



A “turning circle” has been cut at the far end of the Crambeck land, to indicate the boundary, and the end of the path.

We have ordered some signs which identify the land and the river as SSSIs, just in case people walking down there do not know. As soon as we have the signs, they will be installed at each end of the path, alongside the existing “Private” notices.

Giant hogweed was found in two locations near the path. All the known plants have been successfully treated with a systemic weed killer, and they have either gone completely, or have turned yellow, and are dying back.

Apart from mowing and perhaps trimming small branches which encroach onto the path, the only planned work on the riverside land during the summer will be the “balsam bashing” – the removal of the invasive Himalayan balsam plants. For the last few years, the Howardian Hills AONB has organised some volunteers to come and do the work for us, and they are planning to come again this year. It is important that this is done before the plants set seed.

### Nature Trail

Jim and Peter have cleared some fallen trees from Cram Beck, and cut down some of the dead elms near the road bridge – one of them was leaning against the bridge.



This work will continue, whenever there is an opportunity.



Peter is also planning to make some improvements to the steps and handrail, starting from the top, just behind Jim's container. Over time, the soil on the steep slope just below the steps tends to migrate downhill, which gradually undercuts the steps. He has a plan to improve the situation, but is going to carry out some trials before committing to the work.

### A64 trees

The Highways people came to remove two diseased ash trees from the A64 verge, and a few branches from our trees which were overhanging the road. They set up traffic lights, so they could operate safely. However, they took a long time to dismantle the first ash tree, and large queues had built up on the road, so they had to abandon the work when it was only half finished.



The contractors returned recently, but this time they didn't even set up the traffic lights, so no progress was made.

### Paddocks

The grass in the paddocks grew very quickly during May, and had become quite long, so it has just been cut. This year, the paddocks had few weeds, so they have not been sprayed. We plan to cut again to keep the grass at a reasonable length for anyone who wants to walk in there.



### Notice board

Andy recently installed the noticeboard he had refurbished over the winter. Thanks for doing the work, Andy! Joyce looks after the notices on each board, so please see her if you want anything to be put up.



### Best wishes

Richard Pollard – Chairman      Crambeck House  
Andy Craig-Smith                      No 53  
Peter Roberts                              No 8

13.6.17