

Wishing Tree Woodland Group – Woodland Trust Grant Report August 2004

The Wishing Tree Woodland Group (WTWG) successfully obtained a grant from the Woodland trust for £1980 in spring 2004. This report aims to summarise how the money has been spent or is proposed to be spent and demonstrate the resultant benefits to Ponswood and its visitors.

Item 1: Winch and associated lifting gear. (£326.75 spent)

For some time the group has experienced problems in removing heavy items from the river running through the wood. The new lifting gear has enabled us already to remove 1 dumped motorcycle and two large tree trunks from the river.

Item 2: Petrol Brush-cutter (£288.95 spent)

The footpath running through the wood regularly becomes overgrown with bramble and general undergrowth. The new heavy duty brush-cutter will enable us to keep the footpaths clear enabling visitors to the wood easier access. Previously this task had to be undertaken by hand – a time consuming job for our small group.

Item 3: Digital Camera (£263.98 spent)

The purchase of a digital Camera has enabled us to record our work in the wood and also to publicise our efforts within local publications with a view to encouraging greater local interest in the wood. We have already taken photos of our efforts in river clearance and for an article for our local partnership magazine. It has been most beneficial to record before and after photos of our efforts.

Item 4: Chest Waders (£180)

The pond located in the wood regularly requires clearance of fallen timber, rubbish etc. The new waders will enable our members to safely enter the pond without fear of the inevitable wet feet experienced before.

Item 5: General tools / Maintenance (£393.01 Spent)

The group has an extensive kit of tools and equipment which has been obtained during its existence, unfortunately many of the tools were becoming worn out. The grant has enabled us to add to this and upgrade where required. New hand tools, digging equipment, replacement consumables, lubricants, safety equipment have been obtained. This has enabled us to operate more efficiently and to meet our health and safety obligations.

Item 6: Tool Locker (£200 to be spent)

The current locker located at a members home, has for some time been insufficient to house the WTWG tool kit safely and securely. It is proposed to build a replacement cupboard for this equipment.

Item 7 Safety Footwear (£200 to be spent)

The grant has enabled us to purchase a pair of protective footwear for each of our members, this is seen as a key health & safety issue for our members whilst working in the wood.

Stationery (£50 to be spent)

Essential stationery required for the running of the group.

Insurance (77.31 to be spent)

The groups insurance is now due for renewal (£193.75) – this has risen significantly over recent years, a contribution of 77.31 towards this would be greatly appreciated.

The group's thanks go to the Woodland Trust for providing this grant, it has enabled us to revitalise our existing equipment and to extend our capability into new areas which were previously thought impossible. Please see the enclosed photographs recording our efforts.

John Funnell – Works Coordinator