

Woodland Trust – Community Woodland Network Grant

Grant Report – Oakley Woodlands Group - 23 January 2004

Grant awarded: £686.20 on 1 October 2003

Items purchased: Display panels on 24 October 2003

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Oakley Woodlands Group is a community volunteer group involved in restoring to a coppicing cycle 2 small areas of semi-ancient woodland (predominantly hazel with oak standards) in the village of Oakley to the west of Basingstoke. Our primary motivation is conservation and we are fortunate to have dormice in one of the copses.

As a community group, we are keen to promote our activities to local villagers in the hope of gaining their interest and ideally further involvement. One way of doing this is to showcase photographs and details of our activities in the copses and the wildlife that can be seen there. In the past we have done this by displays at local shows (school fete, village show, scout fair etc) using display panels borrowed from the Parish Council. These panels are fairly old and heavy, and their availability could not always be guaranteed.

With the generous grant from the Woodland Trust, the Group has been able to buy splendid new panels of a much lighter material. We have bought sufficient panels and poles to ensure flexibility of configuration to suit any occasion.

The panels have already been used to great effect on 12 December 2003 at the Oakley Schools Christmas Fair (see photos). Earlier in the year we held a 'Magic in the Woods' event for children in one of the copses. At the Christmas Fair we displayed photographs from that 'Magic' event and, as can be seen from the enclosed pictures, the display drew a lot of interest. The Group is particularly keen to encourage children's interest in the environment and the panels allowed us to display our photos to good effect. At the Christmas Fair children and parents who had attended the event in September were eager to spot themselves in the photographs.

The Group has an extensive photographic record of activities and we will be able to use the panels frequently at future events. We are most grateful for the Grant which has allowed us to do this. Future use of the panels will ensure continued promotion of our conservation activities and involvement of the local community.

Clare Lloyd Williams  
23 January 2004

Enclosed: 4 photographs; copy invoice; bank statement