

## Working Party 5th July 2025

On another lovely warm and dry morning Stephen and I met Steve Bell for another morning in the Woods.

Stephen and I cut down a couple of holly stems in the old wood which were growing at a steep angle and threatening to stop enough light getting to one of the young oak trees growing there, we then cut them up and moved them out of the way. Meanwhile Steve arrived and started pulling logs and branches out of the pond and raking all the reachable pond weed to the side, mounding it up. This turned out to be a muddy and physically demanding job, probably best done in small sections.



I then took the branches away from the pond onto a wood pile further away in the hope that this may discourage people from throwing them in again. Not only do they look unsightly but the excess organic matter is damaging to the pond water so do please ask anyone you see throwing branches in to desist.



After Steve had gone I dug up and removed a large number of alder saplings that had started growing around the pond, similarly to allow sunlight to get to the pond and also so that it looks nicer from the path.

I have been told that ponds should have no more than about 50% weed cover so that enough sunlight gets down into the water to keep it sweet. Our pond fills naturally with

water, which is mainly run-off from the field nearby and has rather too much fertilizer in it to make ideal pond water. This causes the rather exuberant growth of pond-weed and algae. However, while we were there Steve saw a newt hatchling and a developing baby frog and I also saw a baby frog so newts and frogs are using our pond, which is exactly as we hoped they might.

While Steve and I were working on the pond Stephen kindly strimmed about 1/3 of the way round the path in the New Wood and we came back on 11 July to finish it off. All the vegetation is now well cleared from the path in the New Wood.

**Katherine Hutchinson**