Annual report for Townsend Way Community Wood 2016-2017

Malvern Community Forest have been busy collecting litter and keeping paths clear of regrowth this year as part of the path widening and scalloping schedule in the Malvern Hills Conservators 5 year plan.

We've had several constructive working parties: one special activity was mulch matting in the Memorial Orchard. The soil in the orchard is really poor and compacted and so the trees are in competition with meadow grass and flowers for nutrients. Placing mulch matting around the base of each tree keeps grass and flowers down in the vicinity of the roots and so favours the trees.

Plans are afoot (subject to grants to fund them) to install another bridge across Whiteacres Brook at the North End Lane side of the woodland, pathside seating and information boards and hard pathways; the grants are being pursued by the Conservators with MCF support to install the items. This is a huge project and is planned to begin in 2017 and continue to 2020 and beyond.

We have a "Winter tree identification (ID)" path cut into the semi scrub woodland adjacent to Townsend Way and intend to run a couple of educational sessions before the leaves break out in the spring of 2017.

Dave Munday. Programme secretary.