

## Sallerton Wood Conservation Project

### *Coppicing workshop a hit with local residents ....*

On Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> Feb a dozen keen members of the community, including adults and children, took a day out of their busy schedules to take part in the first woodland conservation workshop at Sallerton Wood. The workshop was enjoyed by all and everyone took home a greater knowledge of how and why we coppice woodland and what the coppiced wood can be used for.

The day began with a short briefing on how to use the tools and the jobs to be done. Nothing was to be wasted! The coppiced wood was destined for one of 3 piles once cut down; smaller brush was piled to the side of the woodland tracks ready for chipping and later to lay on the tracks to improve the surface, left extremely muddy from all the rain over recent months, larger straight poles were put aside to have the bark stripped off them ready for use to create a new workshop shelter which will be erected at Easter. A final pile was created for other large branches to later cut and stack for firewood.



The cleared area will now encourage a greater diversity of ground flora and fauna which previously would have struggled to survive in the overcrowded and shady wood and give new saplings a far greater chance of survival. We were particularly keen to give some Wych Elm trees more light and space as they had been overcrowded by Hazel and Ash coppice. Moreover, the coppiced stools will in time regenerate in turn creating a changing habitat and continuous source of useful timber.

“Many hands make light work.” Everybody who came along worked superbly together and all tasks required collaboration, from extracting the larger branches, carrying out the longer and heavier poles and then holding the poles in place to enable others to strip bark effectively using draw knives. The younger participants also found time to build a den using some of the wood lying about although on this occasion they were more interested in getting stuck in with the work.



“This is really quite therapeutic!” Declared one of the participants as she bark stripped her second log of the afternoon.

The project has been set up by Andy Morton of Bere Alston to give local people the opportunity to learn key skills in sympathetic woodland management, meet others, enjoy being outside and active whilst helping to restore and maintain the natural habitats of the wood. There will be plenty of other opportunities to get involved later in the year, both in the woods and at local venues so keep an eye out for info in the Bere Link, Bere Ferrers Blog and on our website: [www.sallertonwood.org.uk](http://www.sallertonwood.org.uk) THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO TOOK PART.