

# Conservation in your Community

by Simon Carter

Friends Newsletter Winter 2012

Listen! The Green Gym is open every day at HOCP. At very little cost, save the effort you put in (and you'd come to the Park anyway, right?) it's a great way to put something back into the local community, whilst having a good time doing it.

Volunteers do a lot of the conservation work on the Park. You could say that they are Friends of the Park in the most practical way. It's something everyone can do, at whatever level of practical skill and most of us are the better for being outdoors a bit more. Think about it! You'd be getting some exercise and you'll certainly meet a wide range of people.

At HOCP, we're very lucky to have a community of local people of all ages & skills, each putting in whatever time they can spare. A few hours or a day, or several days..... some do weekdays, some do weekends! There are some who come daily, some weekly, others monthly. It all helps!

I've worked on everything from trimming hedges and cutting back brambles, through to projects such as the tern nesting platform on the island, the wood store and the new bike racks by Tea-zels. I've done coppicing and used the coppiced material for hedging and spiling in the lake.



Example of spiling to protect the bank

Best moments? Seeing the otter whilst standing thigh deep in the main lake in waders!  
Enjoying getting on with tasks in the company of people who have become friends! You'll learn a lot, honestly!

Interested? Call the office & speak to Richard or Janet