Report of Environment Committee on Tuesday 8th November 2011 at 8.30 a.m. in School House Otford.
Present: Jane Lawrie, Charmian Marsh, Elizabeth Ward.
Apologies: Mary Evans.
Previous report was reviewed.
Telston Park: - A very successful community working party was held on Sat 15th October starting at 9.30am. Around 20 people arrived. Norman Catt ably assisted by our Community Warden Paul Robertson felled an ash tree that was intruding on a neighbouring property and the entrance from Telston Lane was slightly widened. Much undergrowth was cut in the rest of the site. Cllr. Mary Evans managed to burn all the cuttings. McDonalds donated individual bottles of water and Otford Builders Merchants donated 6 large builders bags enabling the cuttings to be taken to the bonfire site very successfully. It is intended to hold a further session on Sat. 12th Nov., weather permitting from 1 pm until 4pm., following the Jubilee Ideas Meeting in the club room of the village hall. EW

Oxenhill Woods: - The coppicing appears to have continued successfully and a large amount of timber is now stacked at the entrance at Tudor Drive ready for transportation elsewhere by the contractor. There is still a considerable amount of timber to be removed from the present coppicing area and many large lengths will need to be removed from the ditch at the western edge of the Shaw otherwise this could cause trouble in the future. EW/SDC

Pilgrim’s Way East: - Ivy is overtaking a lot of the footway, could be cleared by a volunteer working party before the bad weather sets in. C’tee

Willows at the Pond: - EW and Brian Thomas, our tree warden, met Les Jones from SDC on Mon. 7th Nov. to discuss a possible replacement tree for the willow at the western side of the pond. After much deliberation it has been decided to make a short list of possible species that may be a suitable replacement/s. Then hold a special meeting in the village to give the parish an opportunity to have involvement in the final choice. LJ. BT. C’tee

Planters: - The ones at the Pharmacy and on the patio of the Village Hall are looking very attractive at the moment. Investigations are underway to find suitable replacements for the wooden containers that are looking very dilapidated. This has been a proposal to celebrate the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee. A request will be made to the Fete Committee for a contribution towards the cost. CM/EW.

Coolings and Polhill Garden Centres: - Sacks of bulbs have been donated by these two companies primarily for Hale Lane Recreation Ground Project but there are a number left over. Other sites for planting the remaining bulbs were Willow Park Green, Twitton Meadows, and the bank opposite in Pilgrim’s Way West, Telston Park or Palace Field bearing in mind they have to keep their leaves for quite some time after they have flowered. Could be a consideration with the grass cutting regime? C’tee/Volunteers.

Correspondence: -
Letter from Mrs. Ly re the Pond and pollarded willow. P.T.O.
Reply from ‘southeastern’ re the state of the shrubs in Station Approach!

Letter, Report and a £15 voucher for a tree for entering the ‘Kent Men of the Trees competition. Otford is in the top 10 villages in Kent.

Letter from Kent BTCV requesting a donation towards funding tree wardens, with an information leaflet. Together with the following, details of their Pond Warden Scheme. Woodland Art Festival on 3rd December at Singleton Environment Centre Ashford 10am – 3pm. Photography Competition ‘Woodland’, deadline 30th Nov. Leaflet BTCV’s ‘Big Green Weekend’ 22nd Oct at Ashford Leaflet BTCV’s Workshops for 2011-11-10

**Dates for next meetings: -Tuesday 24th January, 28th February and 27th March**

**All at School House at 8.30 a.m.**