



## The community celebrates

Whatever your view on the Jubilee, it certainly brought the local community together. The Union Jack was flying high over Allington Hill and many locals climbed to the top for the very first time.

We were a little unprepared, as we did not expect so many newcomers to turn up and try and find their way in the dark.. It was a little bit like follow the leader, with an estimate of about 300 people watching the prize winner, Chris Cole, Deputy Mayor, Jeff Ackerman and Paul Bowditch light the Beacon.

The anticipation of will it, or will it not burn, all added to the fun of the occasion.

Hopefully they all found their way down again. It amazed me while advertising the event, so many Bridport people said "where is Allington Hill?"

None of this would have been possible without the volunteers, local people and businesses that were inspired by Paul Bowditch's enthusiasm to mark this special occasion. You all deserve a big.

**THANK YOU**



## Our first Grant

The decision was made to apply for grants as a way to fund the projects on the hill. The first application was made to the "Community Fund". To allow us to do this a committee was formed from the volunteers.

The committee members, myself Cathy Harvey, Sal Robinson, Paul Bowditch, Irvin Beer, Anne -Marie Beer and Kevin Payne, make the volunteer group a little more official. Apart from that nothing will or has changed. We plan to have an open meeting in July, so you can all come along and have a say on future events on the hill.

Thank you, for the those who wish to remain anonymous, that have generously donated direct into the Allington Hill Volunteer account. They have been contacted individually and the money will be used according to their wishes. If you wish to donate, account details are as follows.

Allington Hill Volunteer Group Lloyds 30-67-89 19597660

# Allington Hill Youth Awards 2012



## *This Year's winners*

<i>Volunteer of the Year</i>	<i>Adam</i>
<i>Volunteer award</i>	<i>Benn</i>
<i>Volunteer award</i>	<i>Laura</i>
<i>Volunteer award</i>	<i>Otto</i>
<i>Volunteer award</i>	<i>Sebastian</i>
<i>Community award</i>	<i>Jade</i>
<i>Community award</i>	<i>Kirsty</i>
<i>Community award</i>	<i>Jordon</i>
<i>Nature award</i>	<i>Toby</i>
<i>Nature award</i>	<i>Ellie</i>

The Woodland Trust award  
Annual membership for  
Nature detectives was given  
to  
Otto  
and  
Sebastian

Each young person was  
given an appropriate  
gift, certificate and  
jubilee medal.

*Congratulations!*

# The Jubilee Picnic

**With kind permission**

of the

Woodland Trust

**Sponsorship**

West Dorset District Council

Washingpool Farm

**Refreshments**

Washingpool farm

Get Stuffed

**Raffle Prizes**

Groves

Boots

Co-op

Waitrose

Bridport Kick Boxing

Clipper Teas

Arts and Crafts Shop

Red Plum Gallery

also

Prizes donated from Hillbilly  
members

**Special Thanks**

(Vicki and Keith Baldwin  
and helpers, pony rides)

Weller Scaffolding

Washingpool farm

Ros Fry

Clive Rendall

Andrew Peters

A. P. Chants

Bradforfs

Jewsons

**Invited Guests**

Mayor and Mayoress of Bridport

David and Anne Rickard

Deputy Mayor Geoff Ackerman



# Allington Hill Beacon No 594



THE QUEEN'S  
DIAMOND JUBILEE  
BEACONS  
4TH JUNE 2012



As usual the local community did us proud. Thankfully Clive and Andrew, local farmers enjoyed making the many trips up to the top with their tractor and trailer and big bucket thing!, with all the wood that had been donated. We took it in turns guarding the Beacon the rest of the day ( although someone actually thought people had been fly tipping!!!!!!) . As usual I took my duties very seriously and fell asleep while on duty, Whoops. Thankfully no one sneaked up and set light to it, so please don't tell anyone, and no one will be any the wiser. Once it got going, it was seen from far and wide. It was great to be part of a nationwide event.

If you would like a DVD of the Jubilee events on the hill, please email me for a copy. Several people have already had their copies and said how good it is. We are asking for minimum of a £2 donation with profits going to general funds.

This our first visit we have enjoyed it, so much fun

*You have made such a difference*

*This is a great community space*

*Thank you it was great*

*You made me feel a part of the  
community*

What's next?

*You have a great project going on here*

# Jonathan says

With the Jubilee now fading to a happy memory, I would like to reflect on what a huge success it was. It has all been due to the hard work of the volunteers and it is for me to say a personal 'Thank You'. For the Woodland Trust however the Jubilee is a year long frenzy of activity in our efforts to plant 60 Diamond Woods and thousands of smaller Jubilee Woods, totalling 6 million new native trees nationwide. With planting now on hold until the autumn we are well over half way there and the hundred trees planted in Jubilee Wood at Allington were added to the total of 3 million trees in the ground so far. If you planted one then be aware that you have been involved in something that will change the face of the country for ever making it a greener and more pleasant land than before.

A quick thought : when the Queen came to the throne an approx guess of the percentage of the country that was woodland would be only 7%, it is now 12%. This doesn't sound much but the increase has meant that there are now 1, 224, 000 hectares more of woodland (or 70, 000 more Allington Hills-worth of woodland). A good effort, but such was the low starting point that we are still the second least wooded country in Europe , so no time to stop and wait – lets keep planting!



*Memo. We have been keeping an eye on the trees that were planted. They survived the first three weeks of drought and now the monsoon weather. You will notice a lot of the trees are already showing above the tree protectors. Our stock bed of trees to transplant out in the Autumn is also doing really well. We do not seem to have lost one tree yet. The Trust does try and avoid the use of spays wherever possible, the decision to spray the nettles that spread in the jubilee wood area was not taken lightly. They were out of control!*

## You are all doing a grand job!

I do feel as though I am beginning to know the hill like the back of my hand. So when a new rabbit hole appears in a path or something looks different, my eye is immediately drawn to it. I am sure that many of you have also seen me over there recently with my bamboo cane giving the nettles and the bracken a good thrashing as I walk pass. I seem to have started a trend. I actually caught someone doing a bit of nettle bashing the other day. Great, especially along the pathways, there really are still plenty for the insects to feed on.. Please whack the bracken as much as you like.

Love and attention has also been shown to two trees. One walker noticed that one of our Jubilee trees did not seem to be doing as well as the others. So I told him to talk to it in passing. He duly has and has reported back that it has bucked up and now doing fine.

I also know that some of you have been sneaking down and keeping the area clear around the Grand tree. This also seems to be thriving with all this attention and a few hugs and caring words. In fact there does seem to be a lot of tree hugging going on.

I like the way you are all doing your own little thing. If you are aware of bigger jobs that need doing, let us know. Do not tackle these jobs on your own. At least one of the main volunteers is available during the week. We can always help and advise you. If it is something you personally wish to be involved in, but do not want to work as part of a group, just let us know. [allingtonhill@gmail.com](mailto:allingtonhill@gmail.com)

I have also noticed a piece of sculpture appear on the hill. It's very comfortable. Is it suppose to resemble something you may sit on? ( Cryptic, just in case the Jonathan reads this, ) hee, hee, I love it! You were not the only one to recycle wood before it reached the Beacon. I know all that wood, it was too tempting.

# Natures Diary

I sound like a broken record sometimes. I am always pleading with people to tell me what nature they see on the hill. About once every two months I get an email, and that's about it. After a recent comment concerning the lack of wildlife on the hill, I have been inundated with people's sightings.

Everything from muntjac, roe and red deer, loads of rabbits, owls, badgers, foxes, slow worms, woodpecker young. Bird boxes being used, flowering orchids, all the fox gloves, thistles, teasels and poppy plants. Although the latter I think may not be the wild variety, but have found their way onto the hill somehow.

What do we look out for next? Will you be the first person to see a red kite circling overhead. They are slowly making their way south and have been seen several times at Abbotsbury and further inland. That is a sight I am looking forward too.



## The Grand Tree



Due to a lack of space in this issue, I will go into the history of the tree in a later addition. Many people have asked if we can make something from the limb that has completely broken away. As you can see from the picture on the right, most of it is rotten and splintered .

Those few twigs that you can see growing out from the trunk below the split have put on vigorous growth. Sap still seems to be feeding the trunk to the left, from this strip here.



Although a storm brought the tree crashing down, the damp weather since and clearing the undergrowth from around the base, will give the tree a fighting chance to survive.



# Nature Detectives

## BATS

In the next few weeks a survey of the bats on the hill will be made. In the first instance a local expert will visit the hill with his bat detector, to locate the main areas where the bats are living on the hill and what the bats are.

He has offered, after gathering all the information, to do a bat walk on the hill. With a small group of people, he firstly would give them a short talk about the type of bats they should see and hear with the bat detector. It would also be an ideal time to do some night moth hunting, so I would come along with my net and see what we can find.

If you would like to do a night walk on the hill, we would meet at 8.30pm at the main gate in Hospital Lane ( which is in North Allington, leading to the new hospital.)

**Adults £2.00. Children that can be quiet are welcome free of charge.**

Only 10 people will get the opportunity to join us. So email your details to me now. It will be weather-dependent and we will give you 48hrs notice when the event is going ahead. If we have a lot wishing to attend, I will grovel like mad and see if he is willing to do some more.

Email me now to book your place  
**[allingtonhill@gmail.com](mailto:allingtonhill@gmail.com)**

## Butterflies and Moths

We are teaming up with the national “ big butterfly count”, which takes place between 14th of July to the 5th of August.

To find out more about the Butterfly Conservation Trust and the big count go to their web site [www.bigbutterflycount.org](http://www.bigbutterflycount.org).

### How can you get involved?

With the email that came with this newsletter I have attached a big butterfly count sheet.

### When to count

You can do this at your own leisure. You do need a warm sunny day to get the best count. Hopefully we will get a day like that between the 14th of July and the 5th August. Stay in one spot for 15 minutes. If you wish to move to another part of the hill, please use a separate sheet and mark on both sheets where you were on the hill

### Organised count

A organised group count would be good. This means that we know the whole hill has been covered and we can also compare different habitats on the hill. I will send an email out 48hrs before and hope the weather forecast is right. I also will try and do two events one during the week and one at the weekend.

### What next?

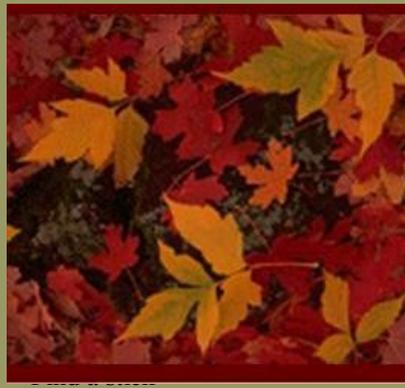
You can go on line and upload your results. If you do, please let me know you have already done so. Then, scan your result sheets and send them back to [allingtonhill@gmail.com](mailto:allingtonhill@gmail.com). Or for those who know where I live, please drop them through the letter box.



# The New Benches

The first of the new benches has been put in place. Some people are not sure why we choose an area off the main path. Not everyone wishes to sit and talk to passersby. We placed the seat back away from the path, to allow people to sit and see the sea view , in quiet contemplation. Sometimes we need our own space and to be able to sit a while with are own thoughts.

One the other hand, some people wish to sit for a while in the hope that someone will come along for a chat. The other bench that is being donated by Allington parish in commemoration of the Queen’s Jubilee will eventually appear near the main gate. Many people within Cherrytree live on their own and would love to be able to sit and chat to passersby. So when the seat is in place, please give them a cheery smile and hello. You will be making a lonely person very happy. I have already promised to walk with a lady to the seat once it is place. Let’s make them welcome.



### HILLBILLIES CONTACT DETAILS

To receive a newsletter  
Send an email to  
allingtonhill@gmail.com

Mobile  
07789705345

*Facebook*  
*Allington Hillbillies*

## Your News and Views

### The hill is really beginning to look as if we care.

Thank you, a place that looks cared for gains more respect. We expected to have to do a massive clear up of rubbish after the Jubilee weekend. The volunteer that got up at 7am the next morning to do this only found two bottles. There is less litter being dropped, it used to be really bad. People are showing more respect.

### We are very impressed by the way you encourage your young volunteers.

Most of our volunteers today were children that played on the hill as a child. We need to make Allington Hill a special place for today's children, for them to be the next generation of volunteers.

### Your events really bring the community together.

Bringing the community together is a bi-product of raising money to help us look after the hill. The groups aim was always to be community-led. So if you want more events, tell us what you would like.

### Why is there a fenced off area where you cleared the Blackthorn last year?

That is where we heeled in over 100 trees to plant in the area directly behind them. A lot of that area is dead Elder, which we will fell and plant with a more diverse selection of trees to improve the habitat.

## The Weather

Rain, rain and more rain. Let's add a few gale force winds to that and then the chill factor. The poor trees took so long to come into leaf only to have most of them ripped off by the wind. In one day we had over 70mm of rain. With Bridport's micro climate, we yet again seem to have fared a lot better than other places.

What is the outlook? With Wimbledon and the Olympics coming up, I predict more of the same, right through until September. The same as most years really. Sorry for being realistic. Climate change has and will continue to effect our seasons, which in turn effects the balance of nature. It will be interesting to see how the complete contrast in weather from last year affects the wildlife on the hill.

## Dates for your Diary

BAT WALK  
BUTTERFLY COUNT  
AND  
WORKING PARTIES  
WILL ALL BE NOTIFIED BY  
EMAIL AND TEXT.  
DUE TO  
RECENT WEATHER CONDITIONS

NEXT SUNDAY  
WORKING PARTY  
JULY 15TH  
10AM

If you wish to receive updates by text  
Please forward your mobile number to

allingtonhill@gmail.com

### Did you know

They estimate that Britain is home to:

- 1.5 million hedgehogs.
- 31 million moles
- 41 common shrews
- 75 million field voles
- 38 million wood mice

When was the last time you saw one of the above? All these species live on Allington Hill.

### Look at.....

Although Allington Hill is not mentioned on this web site is still worth a visit. Some nice ideas for local days out.

[www.dorsetaonb.org.uk](http://www.dorsetaonb.org.uk)

Find out more about the Woodland Trust and their Nature Detectives Club for children, ( and big kids, like me! )

[www.woodlandtrust.org.uk](http://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk)