

## **Cobtree Park Ranger's Progress Report: February – May 2011**

### 1. Progress of on-going projects

#### 1.1. Events

Eight guided walks conducted so far were attended by 31 people. The Easter Trail with GPS was again popular, attracting 31 adults and 33 children (total last year 58).

#### 1.2. Community involvement

During this period, the park benefited from regular involvement of three volunteers who in total donated 108 hours of work. One of the volunteers was a mature student from Hadlow College whose part-time work placement has now ended. The College was satisfied with every aspect of the placement and as a result the arrangements are currently being made for a similar placement for 2011-12.

#### 1.3. Publicity and marketing

The 2011 park leaflet has been designed in-house, printed and distributed within Maidstone, in the Aylesford area and at the park itself. Further distribution will follow as needed. An example is attached to this report.

The leaflet contains the full programme of events. The events are also advertised on the internet on several websites including those of MBC and Cobtree Charity Trust. From June they will be appearing in The Net, a free magazine delivered to every household in the area.

The "Ghost Tree", a spectacular infestation of ermine moth on a bird-cherry tree, attracted numerous visitors during May following an item on national news and the word of mouth.

#### 1.4. Park maintenance and development

The implementation of the draft Management Plan has progressed well with the winter pruning on target and the conservation areas and meadow areas now established.

The vegetation within the car park has been thinned out to increase the feeling of security and to allow better surveillance.

The repair of the Sheep Wash has commenced.

2. Work outstanding (by contractors/MBS)
  - 2.1. Completing the repairs to the Sheep Wash
  - 2.2. Repairs to the boundary fencing
  
3. Actions planned for the summer period (by rangers and volunteers)
  - 3.1. Grass cutting
  - 3.2. The trees and shrubs – removal of deadwood and branches impeding access
  - 3.3. Researching and carrying out the guided walks
  - 3.4. Further research into the park history
  - 3.5. Further work on the Arboretum database