

SPRING 2012 TASKS



HAZEL COUPE APRIL

Sunday 15th & Monday 16th

This is the second year on our hazel coupe. Here we hope to have an eight-year cycle of coppicing which will provide a variety of different aged plants. Butterflies seem to prefer two-year old plants as a host.

We will prepare the a second area, clearing away brambles and bracken that might out-compete the hazel.

Initially we shall put some protective fencing around these plants to stop the deer destroying the young tender shoots.

Meet daily at Stew Pond car park at 9:30am daily.



PURPLE EMPEROR TASK

**MARCH Sunday 18th and
Monday 19th**

We have been working since 1998 on the task of recreating a habitat for the Purple Emperor butterfly. The clearance of young birch saplings and other small trees will ensure sunny glades for the mature oaks and young sallows, which will provide perfect breeding grounds for this elusive butterfly. The males fly high around the canopy of the mature oaks while the females lay their eggs in the branches of the lower sallows, which provide food for the emergent larvae.



Meet daily at the Stew Pond car park notice board at 9:30am.



WEST HEATH MAY

Sunday 20th & Monday 21st

We continue with halo release around veteran oaks and cutting back scrub, thus allowing sunny glades, which should improve the habitat for many moths and butterflies. This work will also allow regeneration of thorn and sallows to create new growth.

The grassland on the heath has now established itself, benefiting from successive bracken rolling.

Meet daily at Wells notice board, off Wells Road, at 9:30am.

