



# **Ashplats Conservation Group**

## **Chairman's Report 2025**

### **Looking back on 2025**

Jan – Feb – Coppicing along Pines with East Grinstead Bonfire Society.

March – Coppice Site clear up.

April – Litter Pick.

Summer – Surveys in the meadow and dormice surveys.

September – Clearing rubbish from the Lake

October – Fungus Survey

November – Coppicing with 6 from East Grinstead Bonfire Society.

December – Rhododendron removal.

The Rhododendron removal task was particularly effective, a combination of fine weather, mince pies and a root puller made for an enjoyable walk in the woods.

The coppicing is well attended by the Bonfire Society.

### **Looking Forward**

Owl Path has been cleared of Ash, and is now safe to hold tasks creating scalloped edges.

Coppicing, particularly around Badgers and Pines path can continue. We have generated quite a bit of brash to be incorporated into dead hedges, future tasks will create more.

The willows in Alfreds Pond are returning, but some planning and preparation is needed to have the people and resources in place to do this effectively and safely. Cranston Pond also on the radar for de-silting.

We will have another Rhodi-roundup next season. I suspect we shall be doing this annually for several years, keeping on top of new and returning specimens.

### **Thanks and Appreciation**

Thanks to all our volunteers, old and new. In particular I'd like to thank:

- Brian Akehurst for taking over the Treasurer role.
- Steve Metcalfe for again arranging the AGM venue, for the Mergin Maps app to record where things are in the woods, and setting up the dormouse survey tunnels.
- Louise Collett and Brian Akehurst for running the bush-cam and taking photos for social media and the website.

## **Volunteer Recruitment**

Volunteer numbers have remained low. Volunteer Fairs in the past have not produced as many volunteers as we would like. Maybe this January will produce results.

## **Dormouse Survey**

The dormouse survey produced some mouse tracks, but nothing clear enough to identify a dormouse. Steve has some ideas on the next phase of this project.

## **iNaturalist**

Two survey tasks generated quite a few entries in the app. I've noticed that fungi identifications generally don't get followed up by experts. Not sure why this is.

Neil Hancock  
ACG Chair  
January 2026