

Juniper Walk 17th January 2010

Andy McVeigh, ecologist with Bucks County Council, and two helpers led 16 local people on a short walk to look at the few remaining junipers on the Common. They also intended to take cuttings.

The day was sunny and 'warm' compared to the previous few weeks. We left the Village Hall and soon came to the first of 5 junipers. It was bent over due to the weight of snow which had fallen on it. Andy estimated the age to be 50-60 years.



Andy spoke about the plight of junipers not only in the Chilterns but all over the country and the efforts being made to take cuttings and produce more plants for reintroduction. Cutting are extremely difficult to grow and a specialist grower in Scotland is growing them but has only a 50% success rate. We then moved to three junipers nearby only to find they were in fact two and that a branch of a tree had broken off and fallen on both of the junipers. Cuttings were taken from both plants.



A sorry sight

We finally moved to the best example of juniper that we have on the common only to find that it also had suffered from the very heavy snow fall and was now lying on the ground with part of its trunk broken - heart breaking after all the hard work put in by Trevor & Philip Hussey, over the years, to provide a better environment to keep the plant healthy. Efforts will be made to support the remaining plant but it will never regain its former upright form. Again cuttings were taken.



Not everyone stayed to the end as it was cold. Thank you to all who attended and a special thank you to Andy and his helpers. Lets hope we will be able to reintroduce junipers on the Common in a few years time.