

## Working party – Pond clearance – 1<sup>st</sup> October 2015

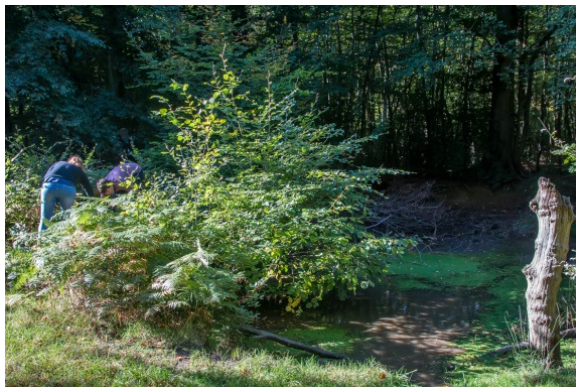
by Chris Miller

I'm pleased to report that yesterday's working party organised by **Chiltern Rangers** (with assistance/direction from Peter Davis) was a great success. As well as half a dozen volunteers from FoNC, we had 6 pupils and a teacher from **Royal Grammar School** and a similar number of Chiltern Rangers. Later on, we had 24 members of the local **Brownies** who were keen to employ the loppers and tidy up. Brown Owl was delighted with the evening, and the RGS contingent was also enthusiastic to repeat the experience. Apart from the great improvement to the environment of the ponds, it was a terrific opportunity to get more young people interested in the Common and its varied attractions.

In terms of progress, Peter tells me:

**Shipwash** Pond – tidy up and started to clear small pond near main path – very hard raking out leaves.

**Small Pond** – removed growth on left hand side, removed some growth on right hand side, cleared out all the dead wood at the back. Having raked that area it now looks like a pond again.



**Willow Pond** – cleared all growth on the banks and on edge of water (waders used by Ranger) also most of the dead wood removed.



**Ladyhorse Pond** – made a start on the bigger growth around the pond with the help of the Brownies and Chiltern Rangers.



In total, 77.5 volunteer hours were worked, which is the equivalent of about 5 months of our normal working parties. I've been on a tour this morning and the improvements are very marked.