

LITLEDALE NEWS LETTER

March 2012.

Spring has definitely sprung at the site. Drifts of beautiful daffodils and lots of catkins on the Hazels. The winter has been very kind to us this year, with no disruption due to either snow or frost. The only problem the weather has wrought is a land slide taking four trees down into the beck. These will need to be removed prior to the ghyll scrambling season.

Lots of coppicing has taken place this winter. It is a task that you can



spend a full day on and yet you never seem to get that far! The idea of coppicing is to rejuvenate the wood land. We have split the woodland in to seven areas, each year we concentrate on one area and will not return to it for another seven years. This promotes healthier

growth and a more diverse flora due to the increase in light. Last year saw a stunning display of bluebells because of the previous years work.

Long Panther Lodge needed to have the roof overhauled last month. The flat roof over the kitchen area was replaced with a pitched roof. When the existing was removed during the work, it was discovered that there was no insulation in the roof at all. The rear section of the roof was therefore removed, insulated and replaced. We should see a difference in the gas usage.

The last weekend in Feb saw the construction of the new axe throwing range. The first task was to winch out some forty tree stumps. It didn't start well, we didn't have a clue how the winches worked! Thank goodness for Sarge, who was able to instruct us, over the



phone, how to use the winches. Back on track, the site was clear by eleven.

The next task was to get the fence posts in place. This would then allow us to set out the range itself.



Every thing that was required for the range had to come down from the top car park. For the task, we set up an aerial runway, it made it easier, but with the size of the timbers required, it was never going to be an EASY task! By the end of Saturday, the main bulk of the range was



complete. Some very tired workers headed off, some stayed over in the centre, others were off to a 40th Birthday meal, I hotfooted it off to hospital to see my brand new Granddaughter who was born that lunch time!!

Sunday saw us finish the fence and build the seating shelter. The front logs were added to complete the range. Amazingly the whole range was completed in just one and a half days!! The 66th Lancaster Service Crew are truly a force for good.



Whilst we were working at the far end of the site, Graeme and Ben were busy branding new signs for the site. They were using our new set of branding irons. We would like groups to brand their names onto pieces of timber that can then be displayed around the barn.



Sunday also saw members of 13th Lancaster Scouts and Castleton ESU moving huge amounts of bark chip using the aerial runway. The bark is being used to make a path between the archery range and the main steps. A huge thankyou to everyone who helped out over the

weekend. It never ceases to amaze me the amount of work that gets done on these weekends.

The next workday will be on Sunday 25th March.

Logs for sale, £5.00 a barrow. Contact Kev 848192

We still want a group or district section to redevelop the old Halton site.

Check out the new activity booking form on the district website. We can usually run activities on your pack, troop or unit nights.