

Friends of Wychwood Tree Pruning at Diggers Wood

On **Saturday 24th February 2007** we shall be carrying out some formative tree pruning at Diggers Wood. If you would like to help, please come along.

The workshop will be lead by David Rees of the Oxfordshire Woodland Project. David's message is that with early management,

especially pruning and thinning, high quality timber can be grown in recently planted broadleaved woods without hindering - and often helping - the aims of amenity and conservation. Also, the cost of maintaining these woods in the longer term is reduced.

Careful pruning during the first fifteen to twenty years can transform the quality and value of trees such as oak, ash, cherry and sycamore when they mature. This pruning has two main aims: to shape



the continuing growth of the tree by removing dominant side branches and promoting a leader; and to encourage a knot-free bole by removing lower side branches. Trees such as willow, birch and smaller trees such as field maple do not need pruning.

Formative winter pruning should take place little and

often. We last pruned the trees at Diggers Wood in February 2005, see photograph.

If you would like to help, please come along to Diggers Wood at 10am on **Saturday 24th February**. Wear stout footwear, and if it is cold, wrap up! Some tools will be provided, but if you have secateurs and long-handled pruners, please bring them along.

Charles Keighley
01993 831403

Postal Subscription Increase

We would like to inform all our kind readers outside the Wychwoods area that as from **1st April 2007**, the cost of an annual postal subscription to *The Wychwood* will increase from £5.70 to £6.00, including postage to anywhere in the UK. There will also be an increase in overseas postage. We have had to take this action because of increases in postal rates but do hope that this will cause no inconvenience to our much appreciated far-flung readers, who contribute so many welcomed articles and memories to the magazine. There is no increase to the cover price of the magazine, which remains at 40p.