

## Pytchley Marsh restoration part two

In February 2012 we cleared some of the area known as Pytchley Marsh in the Cutting, but due to funding constraints were unable to clear it all. Well I'm delighted to say that we have now finished the project and it looks fabulous. Our grateful thanks go to Stuart, Gary and Flynn from Heartwood Tree Services, our contractors, for working so hard and doing a first class job for us.



*Gary, Flynn and Stuart*

The aim as before was to restore this area to marsh land as the scrub, particularly willow which had taken over was stopping the light getting in and thus making it a colder place where little or nothing grew. Having seen the success of last year's efforts we were determined to get the other half done as well. Since last year we have already seen several species return to the marsh area, including breeding frogs, heron (not so good for the frogs!), Kingfisher, Redpoll, and Martins and Swifts using the mud for nest building. You will regularly see Moorhen and Mallard ducks on there now. Having cleared the bigger area we are now hoping to attract even more species back in greater numbers, especially dragonflies and other insects, as well as allowing the flora to return.



*The guys hard at work*

We wait with baited breath for the weather to warm up and see what else we get over the next twelve months moving back in.



*The new view from the tank ramp south of the Marsh*





*The view from the other direction a couple of months ago!*

The project also had the added benefit of creating lots more chips from the brash to help with the Healthy Living Walk on Jolly's Field.



*Chips with everything 😊*

**Steve Batt** 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2013 – photographs copyright Steve Batt and Phil Parr