

## **Bracken on Lower Green**

**September 2015**

One thing that has most obviously continued unabated over this summer is the growth of bracken.

The internet tells us that bracken is very invasive and has few positive attributes. *'Little use is made of bracken for bedding these days! It offers little benefit to other species; it can act as a "nursery" for the egg and larval stages of species of butterfly ... but the bracken monoculture that eventually results destroys the rich mosaic of flowering plants that the adults require for foraging and feeding.'*

*A few species of bird use bracken as a refuge but habitats of vast array of species are destroyed by this plant's remorseless advance; as are those of also most reptiles and mammals.... it is thought some reptiles and mammals could die out completely in many areas if bracken is not controlled.*

*The spores are known to contain carcinogens: Another likely causal pathway in transmitting bracken carcinogens to humans is via the clouds of dust-like spores emitted by bracken beds in July-September in certain years.'*

We have experienced the remorseless advance of bracken this year on lower Green and several local footpaths. Parts of the common also badly affected. We need to develop a strategy for dealing with this.

The Parish Council has cut back the bracken on the lower Green and will regularly cut the area next year to eventually weaken the bracken and stunt it's spread. We may have to do the same on Upper Green and the path along side the B3004. We are trying to establish contact with English Nature and the MoD to see what can be done about the bracken on the Common.

In the meantime, advice from anyone who has experience of dealing with bracken would be most welcome.