

Green Group

This session was our **annual 'Walk in the Woods'**, where a small group met in the car park of Thorncombe Woods.

We started by the trunk of a recently felled Oak and read Thomas Hardy's poem 'Throwing a Tree' (see below)

which describes the felling of a 200year old Oak with axe and saw.



Thorncombes Woods is an excellent example of different types of woodland starting with mixed deciduous high forest of Sweet Chestnut, Oak and Ash. The conversation turned to Ash dieback disease as we stood underneath a towering specimen. But just around the corner lay a fallen specimen where we read an extract from 'The House at Pooh Corner' by A.A.Milne.

The wood then changes to coppice with stand which is Hazel coppice, at various ages, interspersed with standard trees. Here we read the poem by Felix Dennis, 'Why are you killing this tree'. One of the standards is a large Oak where we read an extract from Francis Kilvert's Diary dated Saturday 22nd April 1876.

As we turn back towards the car park the wood changes again to a range of conifers including Larch, Pine, Douglas Fir and Coastal Redwood. Because of the unseasonal cold weather we did not see many flowers but as we got to the last corner there were a few clumps of Primroses which allowed us to read David Bushrod's poem 'Spring Woods' and then discuss the vast diversity within a mixed woodland like Thorncombe.

The **aim** of the group is to **share environmental issues from a Christian viewpoint**. How we can best understand, enjoy and care for God's creation. Meetings are held usually on the first Saturday morning on alternate months

