**Flora and Fauna in Leafy Lane Wood**

Whilst Mrs Wooster’s flora/fauna list of 1994 is comprehensive, it is not exhaustive. She does not mention:

**Trees**

* The two hornbeams at the western edge of the wood (opposite the former NAAFI & HIVE)
* The two whitebeams in the line of trees that divides the main playing field area and the small meadow

**Plants**

(the first three in this list she may not have mentioned as they are quite rampant ‘weeds’). The first five are prolific in or around the wood.

* Nettle
* Dog’s mercury
* Wood avens (aka herb bennet)
* Celandine
* Garlic mustard
* Ground ivy
* Star of Bethlehem (I have not seen this but Marg Harvey and Gwen Davies of 4 Springfield Close regularly walked through the wood with their different dogs over the years and told me that they had seen this on a number of occasions)

It is ironic that Mrs Wooster mentions that bluebells and aconites are increasing in 1994 as by 2008 or thereabouts the bluebells had ‘disappeared’ and the aconites have reduced markedly. This reduction is, I believe, a result of people unwittingly dumping their garden rubbish into the woodland without any thought of what wild plants they might be covering. To some degree, this appears to be the case even with the applicant undertaking the tree works ref 09/00482 in 2009/10 as some of the many branches pruned from the trees alongside Leafy Lane (this work is not mentioned in 09/00482 by the way) have been laid on top of a patch of aconites.

**Birds**

Buzzards are on the increase and they are frequently seen either soaring high on thermals or in and around the woodland. As there is a large rookery in the wood (nesting no doubt disturbed by recent (March 2010) chainsaw activity) rooks can often be seen harassing a buzzard.