



Programme of Events 2018

Work parties are on the 2nd Sunday of the month

All welcome, and no experience necessary

For more information please contact us (see front page for details)

Date	Activity	Meeting Point
Sunday 12th August 10.00-12.00	Natterer's Wood Annual hay rake	Natterer's Wood Kingsworth Road/Arundel Close
Sunday 9th September 10.00-12.00	Natterer's Wood Tree maintenance	Natterer's Wood Kingsworth Road/Arundel Close
Sunday 14th October 10.00-12.00	Natterer's Wood Tree maintenance	Natterer's Wood Kingsworth Road/Arundel Close
Sunday 11th November	Pond Covert Path Maintenance	Woodland Ways storage unit Pond Covert, Sebert Road
Sunday 9th December 10.00-12.00	Home Covert Path Maintenance	Woodland Ways storage unit Pond Covert, Sebert Road

Weather, new needs etc sometimes means we change plans at short notice. Check our website or Facebook for the most up to date information

Information about work parties

The work parties last two hours but you don't have to stay to the end. We usually stop for coffee. Tools are provided. If you just want to stop by to say hello (or even shout words of encouragement from the path) we'd still be pleased to see you. Children are very welcome if accompanied by a responsible adult.

We start with a 'tools talk' so please try to be on time not to miss the 5-minute 'what and how' chat.



The Moreton Hall Wildlife Group

WOODLAND WAYS NEWS

August 2018

The heat is on

Much of this newsletter includes the summer heat; it hasn't rained since May.

We're hoping this focus on the heat will force an end to the heatwave between writing this and delivery through your door!

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News from our woods

Natterer's Wood

The heat has left the three ponds completely dry, and even the Yellow Flag Iris is brown and apparently dead. Hopefully it may regrow from the roots. The grass growth has been very slow, so there won't be quite so much to rake off at the next work party. The August work party is many members' favourite work party of the year, so do come if you can. As well as the usual tea break, there'll be plenty of cold water to drink.

There's currently a lot of wild carrot in flower in the hay meadow. The plant looks like a carrot plant and, if you pull one up, has a carrot-scented tap root. They're very tough, though, so its not worth trying to eat it.

Pond Covert

The entrance to the orchard is now passable, with care, following strimming on a very hot day in advance of the July work party. There are plenty of small apples, just waiting for some rain so they can grow. Small apples can often be more tastier than big ones, though. The entrance of the wood has also been strimmed, to knock back the nettles and make it easier to avoid being stung.

Water for wildlife

The muntjac, hedgehogs and birds might be a little thirsty, If you can, leave out some water in a dish, somewhere where these species can find it. If your garden is securely fenced, a hedgehog can't get in, so you could dig a hole 13cm wide and 13cm deep under the fence and allow hedgehogs to enter and drink.

Woodland Ways Pond

Increased light conditions mean that yellow rattle was able to grow this year, with numerous plants seen in the grass. Its an annual plant, and the seeds don't last for more than one year, so either it was present last year but we just didn't see it, or somebody has bought some seed and scattered it around, We'll never know which.

The pond here has been bone dry for weeks, but frogs and newts probably had time to metamorphosise into adults before it dried up.



Wildlife news

There have been several reports of muntjac barking in the woods recently. Perhaps the heat is a reminder of their ancestral home in Asia from where they were brought to England many generations ago. Male muntjac hold territories which they defend from other males; barking advertises their occupancy. Female territories are larger, covering several male territories.

There's been an unconfirmed report of a Small Blue butterfly along the cycle path beside Sebert Wood School. This species does not live in Suffolk, and its possible that the sighting was a misidentification. It lays its eggs only on kidney vetch, which is abundant on the Mount Road verge next to Natterer's Wood. To look for more, Mount Road would be a good place to start.

Tesco Bags of Help scheme

Thank you to all members and non-members who voted for Woodland Ways in March and April, in the Tesco Bags of Help scheme. We found that shoppers weren't automatically given a token for voting, so it took you an extra effort to ask for a token. It was all worthwhile, because we came second and have now been given £2000 by Tesco. This will make a significant difference to our ability to employ contractors to flail down brambles which are growing over some young trees at Natterer's Wood. We are looking for a matching £2000 so we can complete the task this autumn.

AGM 2018

At the AGM in July, the trustees Nick Sibbett, Tony Potter, Jenny Green, Janet Scorer, Shirley Foreman, Mike Hollins and Alison Roome were re-elected, to keep the organisation rolling into the coming year. Special thanks to Katie Noble, for her stint as Treasurer, and to Mike Hollins for taking over the Treasurer role. Tim Smith was thanked, as at every AGM, for continuing to manage our superb website.

The AGM was a time to reflect on an excellent year for habitat management, with the tree felling at Woodland Ways Pond and Fred White's hedgelaying at Natterer's Wood both recognised as being great achievements.