



**Work parties are on the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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
<b>Sunday 13th January</b> 10.00-12.00	<b>Natterer's Wood</b> Tree and grassland maintenance	Natterer's Wood Kingsworth Road/Arundel Close entrance
<b>Sunday 10th February</b> 10.00-12.00	<b>Natterer's Wood</b> Hedge planting	Natterer's Wood Kingsworth Road/Arundel Close entrance
<b>Sunday 10th March</b> 10.00-12.00	<b>Woodland Ways Pond</b> Tree maintenance	Lawson Place car park (by Osteopaths)
<b>Sunday 14th April</b> 10.00-12.00	<b>Natterer's Wood</b> Tree / Hedge maintenance	Natterer's Wood Kingsworth Road/Arundel Close entrance
<b>Sunday 12th May</b> 10.00-12.00	<b>Elm Survey</b> Across Moreton Hall	Community Centre meeting room, Symonds Road
<b>Sunday 9th June</b> 10.00 - 12.00	<b>Cherry Trees Wood</b> Woodland maintenance	Flying Fortress car park, Mount Road
<b>Sunday 14th July</b> 10.00 - 12.00	<b>AGM</b> followed by <b>Woodland Ways Pond</b> hay rake	Community Centre meeting room, Symonds Road
<b>Sunday 11th August</b> 10.00 - 12.00	<b>Natterer's Wood</b> Hay rake	Natterer's Wood Kingsworth Road/Arundel Close entrance
<b>Sunday 8 September</b> 10.00 - 12.00	<b>To be announced</b>	
<b>Sunday 13th October</b> 10.00 - 12.00	<b>To be announced</b>	
<b>Sunday 10 November</b> 10.00 - 12.00	<b>Home Covert</b> Path maintenance	Woodland Ways storage unit Pond Covert, Sebert Road
<b>Sunday 8th December</b> 10.00 - 12.00	<b>Pond Covert</b> 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



The Moreton Hall Wildlife Group

## **WOODLAND WAYS NEWS**

**January 2019**

### **2019 programme now out**

**If you've not been to a work party before, make a New Year's resolution to come!**

**A work party is as good as going to the gym, but better!**

**But if you can't make it, we very much appreciate your support as it makes us stronger and so we can achieve more.**

If you've not renewed your membership yet, we would love you to do so. A form is enclosed. We don't want you to miss out on membership just because you missed the October renewal date!

Telephone: Nick Sibbett (chair) 01284 723847

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Facebook: @NatterersWood

## News from our woods

### Natterer's Wood

Fred, who laid most of the hedge at Natterer's Wood last year, has now finished laying the hedge this year. Thanks, Fred! It looks wonderful; a traditional Suffolk craft in Moreton Hall for all to see. And as the hedge grows it will be a very dense nesting habitat for many of our birds. The laying did expose some gaps, which we will plant into - sadly the buckthorn we planted last year in some of the gaps didn't survive the summer drought.

There's been a suggestion that visitors to Natterer's Wood want more benches. How about another one close to the existing log bench, for larger groups? Or one part way up the hill? A Public park specification seat costs around £1000 to buy and install, and we are thinking about more logs if we can source them. Maybe there is a tree in one of our woods we could harvest? After all, if we buy a wooden bench a tree has been felled to provide the wood! But we also know that some people prefer seats with a backrest. Let us know what you think is right for most Natterer's Wood visitors.

The end-of-year grass cuts were completed in Natterer's Wood this year for the first time in three years. Despite severe resource issues within the Borough Council, we are pleased that the Landscape team managed to cut the grass this year. We are working on ways to make it easier for them in future; public finances are unlikely to ease.

### Home Covert

We surfaced the path in Home Covert in December, using woodchips from our very own Woodland Ways Pond. When St Edmundsbury Borough Council coppiced some trees there for us in February, they chipped the brash and delivered it to Home Covert for us. It's great to use our own woodland products instead of having to buy in woodchips as we usually have to.

## The 1951 coal shortage

Apparently there was a national coal shortage in 1951. Moreton Hall did not exist then, but it may explain why Home Covert and Pond Covert look like they do. When there's no coal, and don't forget that central heating was in its infancy then, people turn to wood. Home Covert and Pond Covert trees are dominated by a single species, sycamore, which is a good coloniser of open ground. And the sycamore seems to be all about the same size, so all the same age, perhaps at least 50 years old, perhaps older. So were the woods clear-felled in 1951 and not replanted, so they recolonised with sycamore? It's only speculation, but perhaps one day we'll be able to count the rings on a sample of trees and find out.

## Other news and updates

Our Chair, Nick Sibbett, gave a talk to Moreton Hall Residents association about the history of woodland in Moreton Hall from 450,000 years ago to present, some of the wildlife in the woods and how we managed the woods. One person joined as a member that evening, which pleased him.

## Forthcoming events

The 2019 programme is now out, and it includes an elm hunt. Many elm trees died in the 1970s, but elm is fairly common in Moreton Hall. We'll need as many people as possible, to find it all and draw a map of what we've got. Do come to that, or any other work party. Our future social events will be announced in the next newsletter.

## Assistance needed

We've got a strong trustees' team leading us, but there is always space for new trustees. If you are interested, ask at a work party or contact us (details on the front page). It's common for people to attend the steering group a few times before deciding to stand for election. Do give it a try!