

The Moreton Hall Wildlife Group
WOODLAND WAYS NEWS
January 2021

Welcome to the New Year

This time last year our newsletter was full of promise about our forthcoming work parties and how they could be a good substitute for going to a gym. Instead, we had a disrupted work programme and only managed eight out of twelve work parties. Our work parties in 2021, when we can have them, are on the second Sunday of the month, but be aware there is an exception this year to avoid remembrance Sunday.

Pond Covert and Home Covert

In December, we separated our work party into two, for path maintenance in the woods. Originally, we had programmed to spread woodchips on paths through the woods in November and December, but the November lockdown prevented a work party then. Normally we would all work in one wood one month, and then in the other wood the next month. It can be hard to maintain social distancing when there is a large group crowded round a pile of woodchips, so we split into two groups to complete half the path in each wood, and then next month to complete the tasks. However, thanks to some energetic digging and wheelbarrowing by both small groups, the path work was finished in Pond Covert. At Home Covert, the woodchips ran out leaving just a small length of path to complete. Well done to all who took part! Feedback from path users has been very positive.

Thank you to West Suffolk Council's tree team for delivering wood chips free of charge, as waste from their tree management programme. Previously we have had to buy the wood chips and it has been a considerable cost saving this year.

Annual General meeting 2020

We have yet to have our Annual General Meeting, which is now overdue. After careful consideration, we think a Zoom meeting would exclude those members who would not be able to participate, and it would be unfair. When we are able to have a meeting, we will do so. In the meantime, the Accounts have been prepared and independently examined, and anyone is welcomed to review them. Just ask. We have also made our annual return to the Charity Commission. All trustees have agreed to continue in this role and although we have not had any trustees' meetings for nearly a year, we are continuing to manage Woodland ways as best we can. If you have any concerns, ideas, or thoughts on what we can do in the coming year please do get in touch.

Forthcoming work parties

There are several things we would like to do in the coming year. For some time, we have been aware that the log seating area in Pond Covert is deteriorating and needs to be replaced. We've been on the lookout for replacement logs but to no avail. Possibly we can use one of the ash trees in Pond Covert to provide the logs. The seating is well used by Sebert Wood School, as well as by the community so it is a valuable service that we provide.

The tools store is looking a bit tired, and we would like to re-treat the fencing, and repaint the container. We had hoped to do this in 2020, so it is something to carry over to 2021.

Of course, we want to keep up with our normal programme of wildlife and access management in the woods. There are paths to keep clear of overhanging vegetation and to spread with woodchips, three meadows to make hay in, newly planted trees to keep alive, and many other jobs. We also may like to have a social gathering to thank volunteers for their efforts, and maybe a wildlife discovery event too. At the time of writing, it is not possible to predict when, how or if any of these things can be achieved. but we do know that the Woodland Ways volunteers are a great bunch of people and will do whatever they can to help achieve our aims.

Work party dates for 2021

These dates are provisional and please keep in touch if you would like to attend. The work parties will be subject to change at short notice; cancelled, rearranged, or change to the activity, depending on the circumstances we find ourselves in. Regular work party attendees are sometimes emailed before a work party but ask if you would like to be added to this emailing, also check our Facebook page @Natterers Wood for news.

| Date | Activity | Meeting Point |
|---|--|--|
| Sunday 10th January 10.00-12.00 | Cancelled | |
| Sunday 14th February 10.00-12.00 | Pond Covert Path maintenance | Woodland Ways storage unit Pond Covert, Sebert Road |
| Sunday 14th March 10.00-12.00 | Natterer's Wood Tree maintenance | Natterer's Wood Kingsworth Road entrance |
| Sunday 11th April 10.00-12.00 | Tool store maintenance | Woodland Ways storage unit Pond Covert, Sebert Road |
| Sunday 9th May 10.00-12.00 | Cherry Trees Wood Woodland maintenance | Airfield Road |
| Sunday 13th June 10.00 - 12.00 | Wildflower identification Fun learning | Natterer's Wood Kingsworth Road entrance |
| Sunday 11th July 10.00 - 12.00 | AGM followed by Woodland Ways Pond hay rake / Pond Covert orchard hay rake | Community Centre meeting room, Symonds Road |
| Sunday 8th August 10.00 - 12.00 | Natterer's Wood Hay rake | Natterer's Wood Kingsworth Road/Arundel Close entrance |
| Sunday 12th September 10.00 - 12.00 | Natterer's Wood Tree maintenance | Natterer's Wood Kingsworth Road entrance |
| Sunday 11th October 10.00 - 12.00 | Pond Covert To be confirmed | Woodland Ways storage unit Pond Covert, Sebert Road |
| Sunday 15 November (3rd Sunday) 10.00 - 12.00 | Home Covert Path maintenance | Woodland Ways storage unit Pond Covert, Sebert Road |
| Sunday 13 December 10.00 - 12.00 | Pond Covert Path maintenance | Woodland Ways storage unit Pond Covert, Sebert Road |

Membership renewals

Thank you to all those who renewed their membership in October or shortly afterwards. We value every member, for your support and for the credibility we get from having a strong membership. Do suggest to friends and neighbours that they might like to join too! Any previous members who have not paid yet can still do this by cheque to 8 Tassel Road, IP32 7LN or direct to Woodland Ways Bank Account – Sort Code 30-91-49 Account No: 02314687.

Managing Woodland Ways

If you would like to see what the trustees get up to, or join us as a trustee, please do come to one of our meetings. When we are able to have one. Its informal but important in the collective management of our group.

Telephone: Nick Sibbett (chair) 01284 723847
 Telephone: Jenny Green (secretary) 01284 723857
 Email: information@woodlandways.org.uk
 Website: www.woodlandways.org.uk
 Facebook: @NatterersWood