



Programme of Events 2015

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 10 th May 10.00-12.00	Home Covert Botany survey	Community Centre car park, Symonds Road
Sunday 14 th June 10.00-12.00	To be advised See website, twitter or ask for details	To be advised
Sunday 12 th July 10.00-12.00	AGM Followed by hay rake Woodland Ways Pond	Meeting room, Moreton Hall Community Centre
Sunday 9 th August 10.00-12.00 12.00 - on	Natterer's Wood Hay rake Picnic after work party	Natterer's Wood, Kingsworth Road entrance
Sunday 13 th September 10.00 - 12.00	To be advised See website, twitter or ask for details	To be advised
Sunday 11th October 10.00 - 12.00	Natterer's Wood Orchid count	Natterer's Wood, Kingsworth Road entrance

Weather, new needs etc sometimes means we change plans at short notice.

Check our website or Twitter 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.

Other Activities

See inside for wildlife surveying events.



The Moreton Hall Wildlife Group **WOODLAND WAYS NEWS** May 2015

Spring is here at last!

This spring and summer we've got a great programme of wildlife surveys in Moreton Hall and beyond.

Try and get to at least one survey if you can.

And don't miss our barbecue at Bradfield Woods!

Telephone: Nick Sibbett (chair) 01284 723847

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Website: www.woodlandways.org.uk

Twitter: @NatterersWood



News from our woods

Natterer's Wood

The bee orchids will be flowering next month - do try and find them! We'll count the young plants in October. In some years there are also some pyramidal orchids flowering in June

Pond Covert

Large amounts of frog spawn is steadily being eaten by the resident ducks and also by a terrapin which outgrew its welcome at someone's home. Dumping tropical pets in a cold water pond is irresponsible; the terrapin will eat any wildlife that survives the ducks, until it succumbs to the cold.

Home Covert

We removed the pedestrian gate at the Community Centre car park, in March. The gate was installed to prevent motorbikes and high-speed cycles from entering the wood and causing a nuisance. However, we've not suffered this nuisance at other woods, and we're aware that the gate was an issue for people with pushchairs. The gate is removed for a trial period. If you have any views, good or bad, about the missing gate let us know. We can always put it back in place if needed.

Woodland Ways Pond

Last year, frog, toad and smooth newt were all seen in the pond. Will the pond remain wet for these amphibians to complete a breeding cycle this spring? Keep an eye on it to find out!

The dogwood we coppiced last year, and the hazel we planted, are currently growing well. Later in the year we'll coppice a second area of dogwood to maintain the young vigorous growth.

Cherry Trees Wood

Our April work party was diverted from Natterer's Wood to Cherry Trees Wood, to prevent nettles from completely overgrowing the trees we'd



previously planted. We also cleared the line of the path around the wood. Plenty of signs of mammal activity were present.

Forthcoming events

Join us for a guided walk (2pm) and subsequent barbecue (5pm) at Bradfield Woods National Nature Reserve on Sunday 17th May. Cost £5 for the walk leader and hire of barbecue pit. Talk to Shirley at work parties regarding your contribution to the food. Take the A134 towards Sudbury, at Sicklesmere turn left signposted to 'Bradfield St Geo' and the wood is on the right, brown tourist sign, a few miles along that road. For directions, see www.suffolkwildlifetrust.org. Walking boots and clothes suitable for the weather are needed.

We have been asked to survey Ram Meadow (behind the football club) by the Borough Council for water voles and bats. This is a great opportunity to learn about these mammals and discover where they live.

On Saturday 30th May, at 2pm, meet at the Greene King water meadows at the end of Friars Lane, to learn what the signs of water vole presence look like. This was a well-known spot for water voles ten years ago and hopefully they are still thriving there. We will then go to Ram Meadow to do the survey later that afternoon.

On Saturday 28th June, Ram Meadow car park (far left corner) at 2pm, we'll learn about then look for bat roost features in the trees. The Council will then know not to fell those trees without further work to see if bats are using those roosts at the time. Finishing around 5pm.

On Saturday 18th July, Ram Meadow car park (far left corner) at 8.38pm, which is half an hour before sunset. We'll walk slowly along the river using bat detectors to find and identify the bats active in the area; as far as we know no-one has done that there before.

For all these surveys, wear boots suitable for long grass (walking boots or wellies) and clothes appropriate for the weather. Binoculars will be very useful for water voles and the bat roost features in trees, if you can bring some. Bat detectors will be supplied in July.