



## Programme of Events 2017

### 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
Sunday 9 <sup>th</sup> April 10.00-12.00	Cherry Trees Wood maintenance	Flying Fortress pub, Mount Road
Sunday 14 <sup>th</sup> May 10.00-12.00	Natterer's Wood Tree rescue	Natterer's Wood Kingsworth Road/Arundel Close
Sunday 11 <sup>th</sup> June 10.00-12.00	Natterer's Wood Bee orchid survey	Natterer's Wood Kingsworth Road/Arundel Close
Sunday 9 <sup>th</sup> July 10.00-12.00	AGM followed by Woodland Ways Pond hay rake	Moreton Hall Community Centre, Symonds Road
Sunday 13 <sup>th</sup> August 10.00-12.00+	Natterer's Wood Annual hay rake Bring your picnic , to follow the hay raking!	Natterer's Wood Kingsworth Road/Arundel Close

Weather, new needs etc sometimes means we change plans at short notice.  
Check our website, facebook page 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.



The Moreton Hall Wildlife Group

## WOODLAND WAYS NEWS

April 2017

### Spring is here at last!

**Our programme has been revised since the last newsletter; be sure to check it carefully**

**We are now on Facebook.**

**Search for Woodland Ways or use @nattererswood**

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## News from our woods

### Natterer's Wood

Despite, snow, rain and a little sunshine, we completed planting in Natterer's Wood, at the eastern end of the site this winter. The soil is heavy clay, which is waterlogged in the winter and bakes solid in the summer, so tree growth is very slow. Some trees we planted nearby in 2001 are not yet a metre tall! If the wood is to remain for centuries, as we hope it does, a few decades of slow growth at the beginning is neither here nor there in the overall life of the wood.

We planted alder, which has grown fast nearby, goat willow, which tolerates a wide range of conditions, and for the first time in the wood we planted downy birch. The downy birch is separate to, but related to, silver birch and we hope it too will survive the soil type, muntjac, our youth and a host of other threats if it is to form a woodland tree in the future.

During the planting sessions, some members saw a song thrush's 'anvil' where it breaks snail shells, a green woodpecker, and a long-tailed tit carrying nesting material.

### Brambles

.Brambles are a superb wildlife plant. As well as being a successful species in its own right, the flowers and fruit sustain many other species. However, bramble can be a nuisance and is growing over our tallest trees in Natterer's Wood. Convicts on a Community Payback programme helped us by cutting back brambles on a couple of trees this winter, before the bird nesting season called a stop to the work. There's a lot more to be done, so look for us, Community Payback teams, and anyone else we can think of busily chopping brambles next winter.

### Home Covert

Did you notice the little greeny-yellow flowers of dog's mercury earlier this early spring? By now you will be able to find the paired fruits on little stalks above the leaves



### Woodland Ways Pond

If the water in Woodland Ways Pond persists for a few more weeks, the smooth newts which breed there will produce efts (tadpoles) which should survive to adulthood. Frogs breed there too. Together with the toads which breed in the nearby pub's pond, this is a little amphibian hotspot in the area.

If you did a garden pond you may well get one or more amphibians breeding in it. For most of the year, amphibians are land animals and they do find new ponds fairly quickly.

### Wildlife news

Buzzards have been seen circling over Moreton Hall. Although they may not yet be nesting here, they add a sense of graceful power to our skies.

## Visit to Black Bourne Valley nature reserve, Sunday 4th June

Will Cranstoun, from Suffolk Wildlife trust, will show us around this lovely nature reserve between Thurston and Norton.

Meet there at 10am, finishing at 12.

From A1088 head west towards Great green and Thurston. Car parking on left 100m beyond Barrell's lane junction. Grid reference TL943650, postcode of a house somewhere in the area is IP31 3SQ.

Also see <http://www.suffolkwildlifetrust.org/reserves/black-bourn-valley>

### Thanks

To our treasurer Katie Noble, for completing last year's annual accounts despite having to learn the system and suffering long delays by the bank. The accounts were approved by an Extra General Meeting of Woodland Ways last month. The next set of accounts is due soon!