



The Moreton Hall Wildlife Group
WOODLAND WAYS NEWS
April 2021

Work parties are resuming

There's been a charitable exemption from lockdown, with volunteers having been allowed to meet in groups throughout. Your trustees decided that this would not be appropriate, and only now are we starting work parties again.

Our first work party this year will be on Sunday 11th April. To make it easier to maintain social distancing, we will split into two groups. The first group will start at 10am, and will finish off the footpath maintenance we didn't finish last year, spreading the last woodchips at Home Covert and Pond Covert. Meet at the container. The second group will carry out much-needed tree rescue at Natterer's Wood, meeting at 10.15 at the wood entrance.

Please book your place on one or other of these work parties, so that we know how many people are coming and so we can have approximately equal group sizes. Contact Nick Sibbett using the phone number or email address below to make your booking.

On 9th May, if the coronavirus pandemic continues to ease, we will have a work party at Natterer's Wood, meeting at 10am. Stay in touch, as the situation may change and the work party might not go ahead.

In June, again if restrictions have eased according to the current 'road-map' issued by the Government (although with no map of roads) we might have an elm walk, to identify and learn about Moreton Hall's elms. Trustees haven't met for a long time, so this idea might possibly be discarded for something else!!

News from our woods

Natterer's Wood

In February, a fox was reported dead in a ditch in Natterer's Wood by a dog walker. On inspection it was a big dog fox, which perhaps had been injured by a car and had crawled to the bat meadow's ditch where it died. It was placed in the bushes alongside Mount Road, just off the bat's lower wingtip, to slowly return to nature. Its rare to get a close-up look at a fox. Is it still there? Have you seen it?

Pond Covert

Our chairman Nick Sibbett had a meeting in Pond Covert with West Suffolk Council's tree man last week. Some trees need to be felled, coppiced, pollarded or pruned back, to prevent dead bits or whole trees falling on people. You can see the pink marks on some trees if you look hard! The big ash tree by our tools store is one of those which could collapse. It might fall on a child going to school, or fall on to our fence around the container. It will be a shame to see it reduced in size, but that's better than the alternative. Some trees in Pond Covert will be felled, and we anticipate that it will provide sufficient logs to refurbish the log seating area. Logs are heavy and we will need our stronger and fitter members to help us!



Woodland Ways Pond

In mid March frogspawn began appearing again in the pond. Newts are regularly found in the pond too, but their eggs are much harder to spot. Look for an underwater leaf folder in half. A female newt will lay her egg on a leaf, fold it over and stick it down to protect the egg from predators, so the folded leaf is the best evidence of eggs having been laid.

Annual General Meeting

We didn't have our Annual General Meeting last year. We didn't want to risk killing someone by spreading a deadly virus. Charity Commission's guidance was that it was acceptable to do this. However, by July if all goes well there should be no restrictions on social contact. We propose to have an AGM to cover last year and this year; members will be asked to approve the previous year's accounts as well as this year's accounts. Crucially, members will also be asked to approve the running of Woodland Ways in 2020 with no trustees' meetings including approval of trustees' continuing without being subject to election last year.

It is important to your trustees that the actions we have taken are approved by you, so please do make the effort to come along. In practice, the AGM does not usually take too long and afterwards we will have a work party, raking hay whilst the sun shines, at Woodland Ways Pond and at the Pond Covert orchard.

Elm in Moreton Hall

The results of the elm survey we did in 2019 was published in January, in the Transactions of the Suffolk Naturalists Society. The Transactions is only available on paper until it goes online next year, but you can get a pdf copy from Nick Sibbett. Elms are common, abundant, and are spreading. They mark some but not all of the rural hedges which have been encapsulated into the housing and industrial estate. They are spreading into modern planting, such as the planted corner at the Mount Road / Orttewell road junction, and woodlands beside the A14. Who said that Dutch Elm Disease had decimated elms??

Work parties are usually on the 2nd Sunday of the month

All welcome, and no experience necessary

For more information please contact us

Date	Activity	Meeting Point
Sunday 11th April 10.15-12.00	Natterer's Wood Tree maintenance	Natterer's Wood Kingsworth Road entrance
Sunday 11th April 10.00-12.00	Home Covert and Pond Covert Path maintenance	Natterer's Wood Kingsworth Road entrance
Sunday 9th May 10.00-12.00	Natterer's Wood Tree maintenance	Natterer's Wood Kingsworth Road entrance
Sunday 13th June 10.00-12.00	Elm walk?	To be confirmed - please ask
Sunday 12th July 10.00 - 12.00	AGM followed by Woodland Ways Pond hay rake / Pond Covert orchard hay rake	Community Centre meeting room, Symonds 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

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