

The Moreton Hall Wildlife Group  
**WOODLAND WAYS NEWS**  
June 2020

## **Work parties may resume soon...**

With the relaxation from lockdown on 1st June allowing up to 6 people to meet outside, we may well be able to resume work parties although not in our normal way. At the current time, the July work party is likely to be our first work party, to rake hay from Woodland Ways Pond and from the Pond Covert Orchard, with five attendees plus the leader. We will need to maintain two metres between us at all times, and sanitise hands and tools. Please book in advance to attend, and do not book if you are in one of the higher risk groups e.g. with existing health conditions. Do not attend with Coronavirus symptoms, even if you have booked. To book, contact Nick Sibbett (details below) on a first come first served basis to find the meeting point.

For subsequent work parties, the situation may be very different so we will be in touch nearer the time.

## **News from our woods**

There is little news from our woods, as we have not been active, but there are a few snippets

- The path at Home Covert was getting overgrown a tone end, in April, and Nick Sibbett cleared it for his daily exercise. Do let us know if any other paths need to be kept open.
- We have not been able to keep weeded the trees which were planted in Natterer's Wood last winter. If you are passing by, you are welcome to pull up a few weeds from the base of a tree tube as part of your exercise, as long as you can maintain social distancing. This would not be a Woodland Ways activity but a personal choice at your own risk.

## **AGM is postponed**

We have considered holding the July AGM online on a video meeting, but some of our members might not be able or willing to participate in that way. Instead, we will delay the AGM until such time as we are able to find away to hold it in a more normal way. Charity Commission has advised that delays will be readily tolerated this year. In the meantime, Mike has already completed the accounts and they are with our independent reviewer. If you want to see the accounts before the AGM just ask.

Existing trustees have indicated their willingness to continue in this role. We have capacity to expand our trustee base and if you are interested in helping us in this way, do get in touch. There are four meetings each year where the business of running Woodland Ways is agreed.

## **Pond Covert and trenching**

In the last few weeks there has been a programme of installing broadband fibre cables in Moreton Hall by contractors on behalf of CityFibre. Trenching work along Symonds Road was very close to trees along the edge of Pond Covert, leading to concerns that a large proportion of tree roots had been cut. Nick Sibbett reported it to West Suffolk Council's tree officer, who has investigated. Look out for dead or dying trees along the Symonds Road boundary of Pond Covert this summer and tell us if you see any of these.

## **Members working in the NHS**

We have always appreciated our members who work in the NHS but in these times we thank you again for the effort you are making to keep our community healthy.

## Administrative matters

- Our membership of The Conservation Volunteers, which gives us access to good insurance and sources of support, has been free of charge this year.
- Zurich Insurance, our insurance company, has given us 3 months free insurance at the end of our policy, for Coronavirus related reasons. I suspect they can afford it because claims are likely to be minimal during lockdown.
- One or two members of the public have asked us about their issues with trees on Council land. Whilst we have not been able to help except with very general advice and a referral to the Council, we are pleased that Woodland Ways is perceived as being local experts.
- We have been contacted twice by West Suffolk Council, offering us access to apply for a business grant to reduce the financial costs of Coronavirus. We have not lost financially as of yet, for example we have not had a membership renewal cycle so we have not lost members and we have not had to pay contractors to do the work which our work parties couldn't do. We therefore turned down the opportunity to apply for such a grant.

## Work parties are usually on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month

All welcome, and no experience necessary

For more information please contact us (see below for details)

Date	Activity	Notes
<b>Sunday 19th April (3rd Sunday)</b> 10.00-12.00	<b>Tool store maintenance</b>	THIS WORK PARTY WAS CANCELLED
<b>Sunday 10th May</b> 10.00-12.00	<b>Cherry Trees Wood</b> <i>Provisional - check beforehand</i> Woodland maintenance	THIS WORK PARTY WAS CANCELLED
<b>Sunday 14th June</b> 10.00 - 12.00	<b>Wild flower identification</b> Fun learning	THIS ACTIVITY IS CANCELLED
<b>Sunday 12th July</b> 10.00 - 12.00	<b>Woodland Ways</b> <b>Pond</b> hay rake / Pond Covert orchard hay rake	BOOKINGS ONLY
<b>Sunday 9th August</b> 10.00 - 12.00	<b>Natterer's Wood</b> Hay rake	WORK PARTIES TO BE CONFIRMED - LOOK FOR MORE INFORMATION OR ASK FOR DETAILS
<b>Sunday 13 September</b> 10.00 - 12.00	<b>Natterer's Wood</b> Hedge maintenance	
<b>Sunday 11th October</b> 10.00 - 12.00	<b>Pond Covert</b> Box hedging	
<b>Sunday 15 November (3rd Sunday)</b> 10.00 - 12.00	<b>Home Covert</b> Path maintenance	
<b>Sunday 13 December</b> 10.00 - 12.00	<b>Pond Covert</b> Path maintenance	

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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