



## Programme of Events 2014

### 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 14 <sup>th</sup> September 10.00-12.00	<b>Natterer's Wood</b> Path maintenance	Natterer's Wood gate, Kingsworth Road
Sunday 12 <sup>th</sup> October 10.00-12.00	<b>Pond Covert</b> Bat box checks and woodland maintenance	Woodland Ways storage unit Pond Covert, Sebert Road
Sunday 9 <sup>th</sup> November 10.00-12.00	<b>Woodland Ways Pond</b> Shrub rejuvenation	Lawson Place car park, near Osteopaths
Sunday 14 <sup>th</sup> December 10.00-12.00	<b>Pond Covert Home Covert</b> Path Maintenance	Woodland Ways storage unit Pond Covert, Sebert Road

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 and training 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 be on time for the 5-minute 'what and how' chat.

#### **Seals**

In winter, seals give birth on the beach in Norfolk. We'll go and visit them in December or January this winter. Date to be confirmed; please ask or look at our Twitter or website.



The Moreton Hall Wildlife Group

## WOODLAND WAYS NEWS

### August 2014

### A busy summer for Woodland Ways

**Its been a busy summer for Woodland Ways, with plenty of work carried out and plenty of wildlife too. Now that autumn is rapidly approaching, our wildlife is busy preparing for winter - feeding up to have enough on-board fat to survive the cold, migrate southwards, or hibernate.**

**We'll continue to manage our woods for people and wildlife.**

**Will there be any bats in our bat boxes at Pond Covert?**

Telephone: Nick Sibbett (chair) 01284 723847  
Telephone: Jenny Green (secretary) 01284 723857  
Email: [information@woodlandways.org.uk](mailto:information@woodlandways.org.uk)  
Website: [www.woodlandways.org.uk](http://www.woodlandways.org.uk)  
Twitter: @NatterersWood



## News from our woods

### Natterer's Wood

Lots more bee orchids in the bat meadow this year. Removing the hay every year gradually reduces fertility, so big grasses can't grow and there's space for more flowers. The tall oak trees we planted months ago remain alive.

### Pond Covert

One log from the seating area apparently decided to have a cooling swim in the pond. With much grunting and sweat from Dennis, Claire and Nick, it was heaved out the pond and fixed back into place. After a 12 year gap with no reports of terrapins, one was seen in the pond this summer.

### Home Covert

Our brushcutter made a funny noise and wouldn't start. By the time it was diagnosed as beyond economic repair, nettles and other plants were growing over the path. As soon as our new brushcutter came, the paths were cleared and you could walk safe from nettles again.

### Woodland Ways Pond

In our July work party, a young adult newt was found. This was the first newt breeding there for many years, with the spring rain keeping water levels high into the summer. That makes three species of amphibian breeding there this year, with frog and toad seen in spring. The Borough Council removed some unwanted self-sown sycamores from the shrub bed for us, but it now looks leggy and squashed. We'll coppice the remaining shrubs and plant some native shrubs too.

### Cherry Trees Wood

A huge amount of nettle and elder was cleared to give our young trees space to grow. We're waiting a few years for these trees to look like woodland before we restore the next section.

### Wildlife news

Claire Reid found the third modern Suffolk record of the rare Alder Sawfly *Cimbex connatus* in her garden in August. Its caterpillar eats alder tree



leaves and is becoming more common, perhaps due to the combination of climate change and the spread of ornamental alders in public spaces.

Hedgehog sightings continue to flood in from Moreton Hall. Go to <http://www.suffolkwildlifetrust.org/hedgehogs> to add your sightings.

House martins and swifts have been feeding high above Moreton Hall, ready for the migration to Africa.

## Other news and updates

Our visit to Chippenham Fen in June was a success, with lots of wild flowers, unusual insects including an obliging dragonfly, and of course the famous water buffalo herd to enjoy.

The Pond Covert community orchard has bourne fruit for the first time. In August there were three apples on one tree. These were to be raffled or shared between us; however these have been community-picked. We hope that the apples were appreciated as that's one reason why the trees were planted.

## Forthcoming events

Months ago, we were given some bat boxes by the housebuilders next to Shaker's Lane. There were put up in Pond Covert. In the October work party we'll look inside to see if any bats are actually using them. Bats are protected species, but our Chairman has a licence permitting him to disturb bats during surveys.

Join us to see Norfolk's seals; see front page for details.

Moreton Hall Brownies are going to help us maintain the path in Pond Covert, in November.

## Thanks

..to Gerald and Tony for repainting our storage container s lovely shade of green. The old rust and tatty paint are gone and it should stay looking good for years.