

**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
<b>Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> February 10.00-12.00</b>	<b>Natterer's Wood</b> Hedge maintenance, tree tube and mat removal	Natterer's Wood Kingsworth Road/Arundel Close
<b>Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> March 10.00-12.00</b>	<b>Natterer's Wood</b> Hedge maintenance, tree tube and mat removal	Natterer's Wood Kingsworth Road/Arundel Close
<b>Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> April</b>	<b>Natterer's Wood</b> Hedge maintenance, tree tube and mat removal Small group also at <b>Cherry Trees Wood</b> to weed trees	Natterer's Wood Kingsworth Road/Arundel Close
<b>Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May 10.00-12.00</b>	<b>Home Covert</b> Plant survey	Community Centre car park (by the woodland entrance)
<b>Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> June 10.00-12.00</b>	<b>To be advised</b>	
<b>Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> July 10.00-12.00</b>	<b>AGM</b> followed by Woodland Ways Pond hay rake	Moreton Hall Community Centre meeting room

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.

The Moreton Hall Wildlife Group

**WOODLAND WAYS NEWS**

February 2015

**Cherry Trees Wood safeguarded**

**We started managing Cherry Trees wood in 2012, but when Taylor Wimpey's development plans in the next-door field were made public, it became clear that the wood was now in their ownership and our work ceased.**

**A meeting in December with Taylor Wimpey and St Edmundsbury BC confirmed that we are able to continue managing the wood and monitoring its wildlife.**

**Brilliant news!**

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## News from our woods

### Natterer's Wood

We have been removing Clematis from the hedge, to keep the hedge alive, and this will continue into the early spring. We've also made path improvements too.

### Home Covert

In December, to the delight of woodland walkers, we surfaced the rather uddy path at Home Covert with woodchips. The pedestrian gate at the entrance to Home Covert was installed to keep out motorbikes and deter fast cyclists from annoying pedestrians. We haven't had these conflicts at other woods, so we'll remove the pedestrian gate for a trial period. Let us know if your experience in the wood gets better or worse as a result.

### Cherry Trees Wood

As far as we know, a recent traveller camp by the Flying Fortress did not affect Cherry Trees Wood.

## Wildlife news

Garden birds appreciate food in winter, with small and easily-eaten seed such as sunflower seeds, millet, and others in the more expensive bird seed mixes. Wheat grains, found in the cheaper bird seed mixes, are only good for large birds such as pigeons. We occasionally find heaps of wheat seed in Pond Covert, mostly feeding rats and pigeons. Birds don't need to be fed in woodland as its the best place to find natural food.

## Other news and updates

Seven members visited Horsey just before Christmas, to see the baby seals just like those a little further along the coast filmed for the recent Winterwatch programme. We were able to safely get closer to the seals that we thought would be possible.

## Leaflets

In 2006, we printed boxes and boxes of leaflets about Woodland Ways and our members delivered one to every house on Moreton Hall. We had an increase in members that year. People move in and out of the area,



and there are many more houses now than at that time. We invite and welcome all Moreton Hall residents and anyone else to Woodland Ways, as will provide all houses with an updated leaflet in the next few weeks. Thanks to Ipswich-based leading Graphics Designer Mandi Bainbridge for updating and improving the leaflet design.

## Forthcoming events

The work party programme for later this year includes a plant survey at Home Covert on 10th May. We last did this 5 years ago and it will be very interesting to see how it has changed. No specialist skills necessary; we'll explain all on the day. Afterwards we'll have a barbecue at Bradfield Woods and hopefully be shown around by the warden.

We've also been invited to carry out bat surveys and water vole surveys at Ram Meadow, behind the football club. Cllr Mrs Warby has agreed to donate some money from her Locality Budget for this activity. It will be a great opportunity to learn from a professional how to find these little creatures.

## Archiving our past

The first Woodland ways work party was in March 2001, with two members pruning the hedge at Shaker's Lane accompanied by Council rangers and Green Light Trust. Since then we've done an awful lot, and we would like our efforts remembered into the future. We've recently finished the mammoth task of finding, collating and copying all our activity records, trustee meeting minutes, AGM papers and newsletters for Suffolk Records Office for the period up to the end of 2013. These papers will be available to local historians, researchers, and anyone, for posterity or for at least as long as modern paper and photocopier ink will last in controlled conditions.

Thanks to Jane Starling for arranging it for us with Suffolk Record Office.

## Thanks

To Woodbridge-based environmental consultancy The Landscape Partnership for a donation of £250. Woodland Ways featured on The Landscape Partnership's Christmas cards, giving us great exposure to several hundred businesses and others across the East.