



Work parties are on the 2nd 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 14th January 10.00-12.00	Home Covert Path maintenance Woodland Ways Pond Prepare for coppicing	Woodland Ways storage unit Pond Covert, Sebert Road
Sunday 11th February 10.00-12.00	Woodland Ways Pond Prepare for coppicing	Lawson Place car park (by Osteopaths)
Sunday 11th March 10.00-12.00	Natterer's Wood Tree / Hedge planting	Natterer's Wood Kingsworth Road/Arundel Close entrance
Sunday 8th April 10.00-12.00	Natterer's Wood Tree / Hedge maintenance	Natterer's Wood Kingsworth Road/Arundel Close entrance
Sunday 13th May 10.00-12.00	Natterer's Wood Tree / Hedge maintenance	Natterer's Wood Kingsworth Road/Arundel Close entrance
Sunday 10th June 10.00 - 12.00	Cherry Trees Wood Woodland maintenance	Flying Fortress car park, Mount Road
Sunday 8th July 10.00 - 12.00	AGM followed by Woodland Ways Pond hay rake	Community Centre meeting room, Symonds Road
Sunday 12th August 10.00 - 12.00	Natterer's Wood Hay rake	Natterer's Wood Kingsworth Road/Arundel Close entrance
Sunday 9 September 10.00 - 12.00	To be announced	
Sunday 14th October 10.00 - 12.00	To be announced	
Sunday 11 November 10.00 - 12.00	Pond Covert Path maintenance	Woodland Ways storage unit Pond Covert, Sebert Road
Sunday 9th December 10.00 - 12.00	Home Covert 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

The Moreton Hall Wildlife Group

WOODLAND WAYS NEWS

January 2018

2018 programme now out

**If you've not been to a work party before, make a New Year's resolution to come!
This newsletter describes what a work party is, how it works and why its so enjoyable.**

Telephone: Nick Sibbett (chair) 01284 723847
Telephone: Jenny Green (secretary) 01284 723857
Email: information@woodlandways.org.uk
Website: www.woodlandways.org.uk
Facebook: @NatterersWood



News from our woods Natterer's Wood

Hedgelaying is continuing at a fast rate. Very many thanks to Fred the hedgelayer for helping us achieve a design aspiration from 2001. We've replaced a couple of saw blades that he's worn out on the hedge, but his work is all voluntary. Do go down and have a look.

The design of the bat meadow was that people were encouraged to enter at the top of the slope, enjoy it, and leave the way that they entered. However, a through-route has appeared, with people regularly scrambling through the hedge at the bottom of the slope. Woodland Ways trustees discussed whether to restore the original design intention, or to accept and encourage the through-route. The outcome was some hard digging to infill the ditch and make the scramble through the hedge a lot easier!

Home Covert

Our December work party was affected by snow which fell prior to the 10am start, with a low turnout of just the hardiest (or daftest!) members. The path surfacing was half finished, and we'll finish it during the first part of the January work party. Thanks very much to Gill for supplying mulled wine as well as tea and coffee, even though she was unable to attend the work party,

Woodland Ways Pond

Over the last few years, tree growth has been gradually increasing the shade and a wide strip of wildflower grassland along the edge of the meadow has been shaded out, with just cow parsley able to survive. Plant species were down in 2017, with yellow rattle and bee orchids lost, probably due to shading. We also think that the tree suck a lot of water from the soil, thus reducing the water level in the pond and increasing its dry periods.

Woodland Ways chair Nick Sibbett and vice chair Tony Potter met St Edmundsbury Borough Council at Woodland Ways Pond to explain the problem. St Edmundsbury own the land and are responsible for it, with Woodland Ways providing the voluntary management which the Council can't do. In February, the Council's tree team will coppice trees to let much more light into the grassland and pond. In the second part of our



January work party, and in our February work party, we'll clear accumulated debris from the base of trees. By doing this we'll make it much easier for the tree team and we'll get maximum benefit from the limited time that they will have.

Although some people may dislike the concept of tree felling, Woodland Ways takes a balanced view of woodland management and we are clear that in some instances there are benefits of trees being felled; in this case to benefit wildflower grassland and a pond. In any case, we hope the trees will regrow from their stumps and provide dense undergrowth for birds such as wrens which nest low down.

What happens at work parties?

We are often asked what work parties are like, perhaps by people who are thinking of coming but are uncertain what to expect. We meet at 10am on the second Sunday of the month, with usually around 10 - 15 people attending, sometimes up to 20 people. There's a wide range of ages, with young families sometimes attending, and very welcome, with most attendees in the range from 30 to above retirement age. We may look like a scruffy lot, with gardening clothes and stout shoes or boots, and little sartorial elegance, but stilettos are unusable and if you wear shorts / tee-shirt you may get some minor scratches.

The work party starts with a discussion of what the task is (see the programme on the back page for the sort of things we do), and how to use our tools safely. The health and safety information is common sense, such as looking behind you when you use a rake so you don't poke anyone in the ribs!

Everyone works at their own pace, and we are a friendly group so no-one is left alone or unsure what to do. One or two members are unable to do much physical work, and turn up for tea-break, and we are always pleased to see them. Gillian does a brilliant job in bringing flasks of boiling water to make fresh tea and coffee, with good biscuits, and tea-breaks are as much for social engagement as a rest. By midday we get satisfaction from seeing what we've achieved, and pack up promptly.

all are welcome to work parties, and don't be put off by not knowing what to do or worrying about how you'll fit in - we would love you to join us! All ages and abilities very welcome.