

**Happy New Year! Your trustees are looking forward to a year uninterrupted by covid-19 and where our wildlife benefits from our work parties.**

## **News from our woods**

### **Natterer's Wood**

We have made a formal complaint to West Suffolk Council regarding their mismanagement of grass cutting at Natterer's Wood. In 2020 and 2021 the grass cutting in and around the bat meadow changed from the long-term hay cut in August, to a damaging cut in October. The cuttings have been left in both years, to form a 'thatch' which suppresses wildflower growth. The Council has now agreed to meet us to aim to resolve the issue.

### **Pond Covert**

In our March newsletter, we reported that some trees in Pond Covert had been marked up for safety works, including a combination of felling, coppicing and removing deadwood from the canopy if it is a danger to people or property. The works were paused until the bird nesting season ended, and we look forward to it proceeding this winter. We are hopeful that there may be some logs left from the felling which can be used for the long-needed refurbishment of the log seating area. Tree safety works have been in progress for some time in Moreton Hall so it shouldn't be too long before Pond Covert is worked upon.

### **Home Covert**

Trees in Home Covert have recently been marked up for safety felling too.

## **Wildlife news**

A great spotted woodpecker has been heard drumming in Pond Covert, in November and December. This noise is made by a male bird bashing its beak repeatedly on a hollow tree trunk to make a loud noise. It's the species' equivalent of bird song, to claim and defend his mating territory from other males and to impress any females. Listen out for the drumming in the wood, as it may continue all winter.

Also in winter, tawny owls become audible in our woods. Often, one is heard in the woodland alongside Bedingfeld Road (not Woodland Ways) but try any of our woods. The male's 'to-whoo-oo' is most often heard, and sometimes the females answering screech 'to-whit'.

## **Assistance needed**

There is an opportunity at Woodland Ways to help manage and up-motivate the group. If you have experience at leading small and happy teams, and have an enthusiasm for our work to make Moreton Hall's woods better for people and wildlife, do get in touch.

Those of us who regularly read and enjoy the Woodland Ways page in Bury St Edmunds Directory (formerly Moreton Hall Directory) will be disappointed. After 180 articles, the January page will be the last one. The motivation of writing it was being lost - the more eagle-eyed amongst us may have spotted that some articles from a few years ago were being re-used! Thanks to all who contributed to it over the years.

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

All welcome, and no experience necessary. We'll show you what to do, and we will be friendly and supportive throughout. Do as much or as little as you wish!

There is usually a drinks break part way through each work party. Hot drinks are usually provided.

For more information please contact us.

Date	Activity	Meeting Point
<b>Sunday 9th January</b> 10.00 - 12.00	<b>Pond Covert</b> Box planting	Woodland Ways storage unit Pond Covert, Sebert Road
<b>Sunday 13th February</b> 10.00 - 12.00	<b>Woodland Ways Pond</b> Shrub maintenance	Lawson Place car park (by pub entrance)
<b>Sunday 13th March</b> 10.00 - 12.00	<b>Natterer's Wood</b> Hedge/tree rescue	Natterer's Wood Kingsworth Road entrance
<b>Sunday 10th April</b> 10.00 - 12.00	<b>Rare plant walk</b>	Boldero Road (far end, past Pets Place)
<b>Sunday 8th May</b> 10.00 - 12.00	<b>Blackbourne Nature Reserve walk</b>	Reserve car park on minor road between Norton and Thurston. Lift-share is encouraged. Car park is at grid ref TL942650 and also see <a href="https://www.suffolkwildlifetrust.org/blackbournvalley">https://www.suffolkwildlifetrust.org/blackbournvalley</a>
<b>Sunday 12th June</b> 10.00 - 12.00	<b>Cherry Trees Wood</b> Tidy up and inspection	Please ask. Construction progress by early June will determine the meeting point.
<b>Sunday 10th July</b> 10.00 - 12.00	<b>AGM and hay rake at Woodland Ways Pond / Pond Covert orchard</b>	Moreton Hall Community Centre meeting room
<b>Sunday 14th August</b> 10.00 - 12.00	<b>Natterer's Wood</b> The great hay rake	Natterer's Wood Kingsworth Road entrance
<b>Sunday 11th September</b> 10.00 - 12.00	<b>Natterer's Wood</b> Hedge/tree rescue	Natterer's Wood Kingsworth Road entrance
<b>Sunday 9th October</b> 10.00 - 12.00	<b>Natterer's Wood</b> Hedge/tree rescue	Natterer's Wood Kingsworth Road entrance
<b>Sunday 20th November</b> 10.00 - 12.00	<b>Pond Covert</b> Path maintenance	Woodland Ways storage unit Pond Covert, Sebert Road
<b>Sunday 11th December</b> 10.00 - 12.00	<b>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 Facebook for the most up to date information.

Trustees meetings in 2022 are on Thursday evenings, on 24th March, 16th June, 15th September and 8th December. Please come to find out what the trustees do, and contribute anything you might have to tell us.

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