



Programme of Events 2018

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 October 10.00-12.00	Natterer's Wood Tree maintenance	Natterer's Wood Kingsworth Road/Arundel Close
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
2nd Sunday of the month throughout 2019 10.00-12.00	Natterer's Wood, Pond Covert, Home Covert, Woodland Ways Pond and Cherry Trees Wood	Look out for the exciting programme fo work parties coming in 2019 - to be announced in the January newsletter

Weather, new needs etc sometimes means we change plans at short notice. Check our website or Facebook 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.

There's plenty of grass-cutting and path clearance for our brushcutter operators to do. If you'd like to be trained to operate our brushcutter, and can commit to ongoing operating, ask us if we can pay for your course. Age 16+.



The Moreton Hall Wildlife Group

WOODLAND WAYS NEWS

October 2018

Membership renewal time

The membership year is from October to September, so its time to renew.

A year's membership supports Woodland Ways in looking after our woods, and every little bit helps.

Whether you come to work parties or don't come, we appreciate your membership as its gives us strength.

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Website: www.woodlandways.org.uk
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News from our woods Natterer's Wood

The August hay rake was a successful event, with all the hay fitting into just one trailer load. Thanks to Owen for using his Land Rover to tow the trailer. The volume of hay was low, partly because of the long dry summer and partly due to successful nutrient depletion since 2006 when the hay - rake started. Every time we rake off hay, it removes some nitrogen, phosphate, potassium and other essential plant nutrients. Nutrient-rich conditions promote dense grass growth which makes it hard for the smaller plants like bee orchids and self-heal to grow. However, there are signs that growth is so slow that the meadow needs to recover a little from constant hay removal. Unless we have a particularly wet spring and summer in 2019, we'll rest the meadow and not cut its hay. What could we do for an August work party instead?

We've cleared some Clematis to make it easier for Fred to finish laying the hedge this winter, and in September we also cleared some clematis from the oak trees at the bottom of the wood. There are plenty more trees to rescue, so do join us on 14th October.

We are working towards finishing the bramble clearance next to the path that we started last winter, and considering starting in other areas too. We love bramble, as a wildlife plant as for blackberrying, but when it overwhelms our trees we get a bit miffed, and need to cut it back to save the trees. We're not short of brambles, and we're only clearing a proportion of it, so there's plenty left. Councillors have informally suggested that their locality budgets could be available, and we hope for firm commitments.

We could also add more benches into Natterer's wood, perhaps a new log bench close to the log bench already there, and a second new log bench half-way up the slope. Are these good locations for new benches, and would they be used? We think that logs make suitable benches as they are robust and in keeping with the woodland location compared to a standard park bench, but are we right? What else would be appreciated in a community woodland, well used, easy to maintain and vandal-proof? Let us know what you think.



Spreading the news of the benefits of Woodland Ways membership

We are aware that not everybody on Moreton Hall, or might want to be, a member, but there must be many people who would join given a little encouragement. Please pass on the leaflets enclosed in this newsletter to a friend, relative or neighbour who you think might be interested in supporting us, and having access to our work parties and events. Benefitting them, benefiting us.

Duke of Edinburgh Award

This year, we were joined by Aimee who came to work parties so that she could meet the commitments needed to pass part of the Duke of Edinburgh's bronze voluntary service. Because work parties didn't provide enough hours within the timescale, she also picked litter and wrote some articles for our Moreton Hall Directory page. and of course we were pleased to sign off her achievements for the Duke. If you are considering entering this programme, we would be pleased to hear from you now or later in the year. Please note that people under 16 must bring an adult (usually a parent, but not necessarily) who is responsible for you during work parties or other events.

Dogs

Dogs are welcome in our woods and the Council (which owns the woods) does not restrict dogs to being on leads. Mo Burton, a local resident, has set up some poo bag dispensers at the entrances to Natterer's Wood. If you are without poo bags and your dog does a poo, you can use one of these bags to pick up and bin. Mo does this free of charge - thanks every so much, Mo.