



The Moreton Hall Wildlife Group  
**WOODLAND WAYS NEWS**  
January 2023

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

## **Wildlife news**

Tawny owls have started to become audible in our woods. The male's 'to-who-oo' is most often heard, and is his territorial call. Less often we can hear the females answering screech of 'to-whit'. Listen out for them in any one of our woods after dark - the owls can move from wood to wood, so you may get lucky.

To help garden birds, clean and disinfect your bird baths and bird feeders at least weekly. Greenfinches were mostly killed off twenty years ago, with disease transmission through bird baths and feeders. Chaffinches are now scarce for the same reason. Convert your bird support facilities from disease-transmitters to actually benefiting the birds.

Snug in the chalk mines beneath Natterer's Wood are several brown long-eared bats, Natterer's bats and perhaps some Daubenton's bats too. They will stay there all winter and leave when the weather warms up in late March. The entrance to the Georgian or earlier chalk mines, which once supplied lime mortar for building Bury St Edmunds, are in private grounds so not available to us. In spring, the bats will use Natterer's Wood to forage prior to starting on their commute to summer grounds. Natterer's Wood is now far better for foraging bats than it was in 2001 when it was an arable field., so they can start their season in good shape. However, the initiation and expansion of Moreton Hall, the A14 dualling and other developments in Bury St Edmunds means that bat numbers hibernating under Natterer's Wood have been in long-term decline since the 1970s.

## **Amazon purchases**

For those of us which buy things from Amazon, you will be able to contribute to Woodland Ways' funds at no cost to you. We will set up a link on our website to Amazon, which you may use to open the Amazon website on your screen. By using this link, we will be given 0.5% of the value of each sale. We are aware that some members may dislike Amazon, with media stories about its tax avoidance operation. Our view is that if you would buy from Amazon anyway, we would prefer you to do it via the forthcoming link on our website and earn us some money.

Use your low-tax and convenient purchasing power to earn money for your local community woodlands!

## **Membership renewals**

Thanks to most of our members, for renewing your membership in the autumn. The membership year is October to September, with a discount for people joining part way through. If you haven't yet renewed, or can't remember if you have done, do get in touch!

## **Work parties are usually on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month except Easter and 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.



At Easter the work party is a week late so that it does not fall on a bank holiday. In November, some members have asked for the work party to avoid clashing with Remembrance Sunday.

Two events this year are being held to allow us to see a range of natural features not found in Moreton Hall.

In spring, we will visit the Norfolk coast to see the famous bee-eaters which nested for the first time in 2022. It's thought that climate change has allowed them to colonise from warmer parts of Europe. If last year's nesting isn't repeated, we will visit the RSPB nature reserve at Lakenheath Fen, home of bitterns and cranes.

In autumn, we will revisit after many years the well-known fossil site at Ramsholt Cliff, near Woodbridge. A decent hike along the Deben Estuary takes us to a soft cliff of 'crag' sand from which shark's teeth and fossil corals erode. We can hunt for these on the small beach. The Ramsholt Arms will be open afterwards for a fireside lunch, and afterwards you could explore Woodbridge, or National Trust's Sutton Hoo.

For more information please contact us.

| Date   | Activity  | Meeting Point   |
|--|---|---|
| <b>Sunday 8th January</b><br>10.00 - 12.00             | <b>Natterer's Wood</b><br>Hedge/tree rescue                         | Natterer's Wood<br>Kingsworth Road entrance   |
| <b>Sunday 12th February</b><br>10.00 - 12.00           | <b>Woodland Ways Pond</b><br>Shrub maintenance                      | Lawson Place car park (by pub entrance)   |
| <b>Sunday 12th March</b><br>10.00 - 12.00              | <b>Natterer's Wood</b><br>Hedge/tree rescue                         | Natterer's Wood<br>Kingsworth Road entrance   |
| <b>Sunday 16th April</b><br>10.00 - 12.00              | <b>Natterer's Wood</b><br>Ditch rescue                              | Natterer's Wood<br>Kingsworth Road entrance   |
| <b>Sunday 14th May</b><br>10.00 - 12.00                | <b>Cherry Trees Wood</b><br>Tidy up and inspection                  | Willis Road (parking on Saltsman Road).   |
| <b>Sunday 11th June</b><br>10.00 - 12.00               | <b>Cherry Trees Wood</b><br>Tidy up and inspection                  | Please ask. Construction progress by early June will determine the meeting point.                 |
| <b>Sunday 9th July</b><br>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 13th August</b><br>10.00 - 12.00             | <b>Natterer's Wood</b><br>The great hay rake                        | Natterer's Wood<br>Kingsworth Road entrance   |
| <b>Sunday 10th September</b><br>09.00 - 13.00 (approx) | <b>Natterer's Wood</b><br>Hedge/tree rescue                         | Natterer's Wood<br>Kingsworth Road entrance   |
| <b>Sunday 8th October</b><br>10.00 - 12.00             | <b>Ramsholt Cliff</b><br>Fossil hunt                                | Car share from Moreton Hall Community Centre car park. Optional lunch and afternoon free in area. |
| <b>Sunday 19th November</b><br>10.00 - 12.00           | <b>Pond Covert</b><br>Path maintenance                              | Woodland Ways storage unit<br>Pond Covert, Sebert Road  |
| <b>Sunday 10th December</b><br>10.00 - 12.00           | <b>Home Covert</b><br>Path maintenance                              | Woodland Ways storage unit<br>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 2023 are on Monday evenings, on 13th March, 12th June, 11th September and 4th December. Please come to find out what the trustees do, and contribute anything you might have to tell us.

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