



The Moreton Hall Wildlife Group
WOODLAND WAYS NEWS
May 2023

Welcome to Spring

Its been a long cold winter, and a long cold spring, but finally it is turning warmer. Young birds, recently fledged, are in our woods, hedges and gardens, and the May Bush (hawthorn) is in full flower.

Raymond Ball

We were sorry to hear of the death of Reverend Raymond Ball, one of our earliest members. He was not in good health so never came to work parties, but he enjoyed Natterer's Wood whilst he was living in Whiting Street. He asked for donations at his funeral to be given to Woodland Ways, which was a lovely surprise for us and a great compliment from him. We were given £80 from these donations which was greatly appreciated.

Sylvia Bromley

Sylvia was also a long-standing member, and regularly came to work parties until she moved into Oxlip House. We were sorry to hear of her death, but had a lovely surprise when we learnt that she had left us £2000 in her will. Her daughters Jennie and Tina came from Kent to plant a memorial tree in Natterer's Wood. We enjoyed telling Jennie and Tina about their mother's contribution to Woodland Ways, and hearing their stories of when they were younger.

Councillor Trevor Beckwith

Trevor Beckwith, happily, is alive and kicking with Margaret in their new house in Gloucestershire, where they moved after Easter. From the very beginning of Woodland Ways until the time he moved, he provided support and advice, and his Councillor's locality budget set us up with basic tools so we could hit the ground running. We wish him and Margaret all the best in their new home.

Councillor Birgitte Mager

Birgitte Mager has taken up the role of supportive Councillor, and we are very pleased that she brings family members to work parties to work hard (!), provides advice and has provided money from her budget too. We look forward to a good long term relationship with her and all our Councillors of any party. Woodland Ways is not political and does not endorse any party.

Where are all the bee-eaters?

In the last work party, we said that we would go to see Norfolk's famous bee-eaters; brightly-coloured birds exploring the warming climate to nest in the UK for the first time last year. At the time of writing, they have not been found nesting this year. We may be able to visit in June if they appear; ask for information about the June 'work party' activity a few days prior to that date.

Pond Covert

There was a stunning display of flowers in the orchard earlier this month, with the apple trees absolutely covered in blossom. After the local bees, wasps, flies, beetles, and other insects have



done their work, and pollinated the flowers, the tiny apples will start to grow. We could be in for a bumper crop this autumn. All apples are free to take, so remember to take a few to eat (St Edmunds Russet) or to cook (Lady Henniker's). Normally, they are picked slightly too early, as people worry that if they wait until they are fully ripe someone else will get them first.

Woodland Ways Pond

In 2018, West Suffolk Council coppiced the edge of the woodland which faces on to the pond. This was to reduce shade, which was increasing every year as the trees planted in the early 1990s grew ever bigger. The coppiced stumps regrew extremely well, and earlier this year they were ready to be re-coppiced. We did this at the February work party, ably led by Mike and Jenny in the rare absence of Nick.

Work Parties

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 independently explore Woodbridge, or National Trust's Sutton Hoo.

For more information please contact us.

Date	Activity	Meeting Point
Sunday 14th May 10.00 - 12.00	Cherry Trees Wood Tidy up and inspection	Willis Road (parking on Saltsman Road).
Sunday 11th June 10.00 - 12.00 or as advice	Please ask.	Please ask.
Sunday 9th July 10.00 - 12.00	AGM and hay rake at Woodland Ways Pond / Pond Covert orchard	Moreton Hall Community Centre meeting room
Sunday 13th August 10.00 - 12.00	Natterer's Wood The great hay rake	Natterer's Wood Kingsworth Road entrance
Sunday 10th September 10.00 - 12.00	Natterer's Wood Hedge/tree rescue	Natterer's Wood Kingsworth Road entrance
Sunday 8th October 09.00 - 13.00 (approx.)	Ramsholt Cliff Fossil hunt	Car share from Moreton Hall Community Centre car park. Optional pub lunch and afternoon free in area.
Sunday 19th November 10.00 - 12.00	Pond Covert Path maintenance	Woodland Ways storage unit Pond Covert, Sebert Road
Sunday 10th 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 Facebook for the most up to date information.

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