



Programme of Events 2016

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 9 th April 10.00-12.00	Cherry Trees Wood Annual maintenance	Flying Fortress car park, Mount Road
Sunday 8 th May 10.00-12.00	Woodland Ways Pond Water quality survey and pond dipping	Lawson Place car park (by Osteopaths)
Sunday 22nd May 2pm - dusk	Bradfield Woods Guided walk and barbecue	Bradfield Woods car park, Bradfield St George
Sunday 12th June 10.00-12.00	Natterer's Wood Tree rescue - postponed from March 2016	Natterer's Wood Kingsworth Road/Arundel Close
Sunday 10 th July 10.00 - 12.00	AGM followed by Woodland Ways Pond hay rake	Meeting room, Moreton Hall Community Centre
Sunday 14 th August 10.00 - 12.00	Natterer's Wood Hay rake	Natterer's Wood Kingsworth Road/Arundel Close
Sunday 11 th September 10.00 - 12	To be announced	
Sunday 9 th October 10.00 - 12.00	To be announced	
Sunday 13 th November 10.00 - 12.00	Pond Covert Path maintenance	Woodland Ways storage unit Pond Covert, Sebert Road
Sunday 11 th December	Home Covert Path maintenance	Moreton Hall Community Centre car park

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

April 2016

Large tree saved by Woodland Ways

A large ash tree in Pond Covert was at risk of being felled. Woodland Ways made sure it was saved. See inside for details.

Spring is perhaps the best time to enjoy the woods - see the spring flowers, listen to bird song and join in with a work party.

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News from our woods

Natterer's Wood

Bee orchids should be starting to flower soon, with peak flowering in June. Look out too for pyramidal orchids and common spotted orchids in grassy areas of Natterer's Wood and on Mount Road verges - occasionally these are reported as flowering and are a beautiful sight to behold.

Pond Covert

On Valentine's Day, Woodland Ways members gave up their morning to love a magnificent ash tree. St Edmundsbury Borough Council had identified it as being at risk of falling and it was next to the footpath in Pond Covert. But it was a lovely tree, probably born in the Victorian period, and it had a high wildlife value. The woodpecker holes in its branches are suitable for bats to live in, and the decay in the trunk could support rare fungi and insects. No-one wants to be squashed by a falling tree, and the normal solution would be to fell the tree at the same time as other tree safety works by the Council in the wood and surrounding area.

Instead of moving the tree, Woodland Ways moved the path. A bramble patch, several logs and other undergrowth were cleared, a ridge of soil was dug out by hand to make a slope gentler, and the new path was surfaced with woodchips. The old section of path was closed, and you can again walk safely in Pond Covert. The path diversion is perhaps slightly less convenient than the old one as it is a less direct route, and the slope at the edge of the wood is slightly greater than some might like, but when the woodchips settle down it will be easier to use pushchairs on it.

In March, hazel and box was planted by Woodland Ways on the closed section of path to enrich the wood and to reinforce the enclosure. Woodland Ways apologises to anyone who is slightly inconvenienced by the diversion, including its own members, but thinks it is worth it to keep the superb tree until its natural end. All indications are that woodland users understand and respect the closure.

Home Covert

Recent tree surgery by St Edmundsbury Borough Council has reduced risk and has resulted in a lot of logs lying around. These look untidy but as



they rot they will return nutrients to the soil, provide a feast for fungi and wriggled in by numerous small animals. A large proportion of our species live in or on deadwood, yet it is a rare microhabitat.

Wildlife news

A nuthatch and great spotted woodpecker have been seen in our woods.

A line of bushes alongside Bedingfeld Way has been laid to make a traditional hedge, not by Woodland Ways, but we're impressed and it's well worth a mention. Go and see it! The hedge around the bat meadow at Natterer's Wood will hopefully look like this in due course.

Other news and updates

In May we'll study the water quality in ponds in Moreton Hall. We know about the pond at Woodland Ways Pond, one by Moreton Hall pub, one in Pond Covert, and three at Natterer's Wood. Are there any others we can study? Water quality relates to the amount of wildlife a pond can support.

Forthcoming events

Barbecue at Bradfield Wood, Sunday 22nd May. We'll meet at 2pm at the wood's car park, about 15 minutes from Bury St Edmunds. The warden will show us around, followed from around 4pm by a barbecue in the wood. A donation of £5 per adult is requested. We've been there before, and it's well worth revisiting as it's one of the best woods for wildlife in the UK. Its recorded history goes back to early mediaeval times but it is likely to have been old even then. Bring some food to share; Tony Potter will coordinate so we get the right balance of beer, salad and puddings. Ask for more information, or see <http://www.suffolkwildlifetrust.org/bradfieldwoods>

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.