



## Work parties are on the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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
<b>Sunday 12th May</b> 10.00-12.00	<b>Elm Survey</b> Across Moreton Hall	Community Centre meeting room, Symonds Road
<b>Sunday 9th June</b> 10.00 - 12.00	<b>Cherry Trees Wood</b> Woodland maintenance	Lady Miriam Way
<b>Sunday 14th July</b> 10.00 - 12.00	<b>AGM followed by Woodland Ways Pond</b> hay rake	Community Centre meeting room, Symonds Road
<b>Sunday 11th August</b> 10.00 - 12.00	<b>Natterer's Wood</b> Hay rake	Natterer's Wood Kingsworth Road/Arundel Close entrance
<b>Sunday 8 September</b> 10.00 - 12.00	<b>To be announced</b>	
<b>Sunday 13th October</b> 10.00 - 12.00	<b>To be announced</b>	
<b>Sunday 10 November</b> 10.00 - 12.00	<b>Home Covert</b> Path maintenance	Woodland Ways storage unit Pond Covert, Sebert Road
<b>Sunday 8th December</b> 10.00 - 12.00	<b>Pond 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

In our June work party, we're visiting Cherry Trees Wood for the first time in a year. Building work has started on the field next to it, and it will be interesting to see how it affects the wood's wildlife.

Please note that the meeting point has changed from that given in the previous programme. We will meet on Lady Miriam Way, opposite the play area, and walk to the wood from there.



The Moreton Hall Wildlife Group

## WOODLAND WAYS NEWS

### April 2019

### Woodland Ways hits the news

**Did you see us in the East Anglian Daily Times in March? There was a good feature about our bramble work at Natterer's Wood, as well as a video on the East Anglian's website of the bramble clearance in action. Read more overleaf!**

**Our elm survey in spring will be fascinating, to find how this once-threatened tree has survived.**

Whiting and Partners started sponsoring this newsletter, by printing it for us, when one of our members worked in its office in Skyliner Way. Chris has now moved to the Cambridge office, but Whiting and Partners are continuing its sponsorship. Thank you very much.

If your company would like to sponsor something for woodland ways, do get in touch.

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## News from our woods

### Natterer's Wood

.Brambles are a superb native plant. The flowers provide nectar and pollen for a vast number of different species of beetles, moths, hoverflies, flies, butterflies, and of course our many species of wild bees. Birds spread the bramble, by eating the blackberries and dropping the seeds somewhere else. Red Admiral butterflies are known to have a taste for blackberries too, sucking up the juice from an old mushy blackberry as the season ends. Its one of the successful plants in rural and urban areas alike.

Bramble can also smother smaller plants, but in Natterer's Wood it is smothering trees up to 5m or more high. We planted these trees 12 - 15 years ago, including birch, alder and others, and the brambles have climbed into the canopies causing excess leaf shading and root competition.

That's why Woodland Ways spent over £2000 on a remote-controlled flail on caterpillar tracks, supplied with an operator by Urban Forestry. The flail has reduced the brambles to fragments, so the trees can again get the light and water they need. Woodland Ways hasn't touched most brambles in Natterer's Wood, because of the benefit they provide, and the flailed ones will start to regrow from their roots. Thanks to all of you that voted for us in the Tesco Bags of Help competition last year - the Tesco grant has paid for much of the cost

We intend to plant further trees in the large glades opened up by the loss of brambles next planting season - we'll have to keep them weed-free for a while though!

Further down hill in Natterer's Wood, oak and hazel trees we planted a while ago were getting overwhelmed by Clematis. We've rescued most of these by hand, which takes a long time but is satisfying to those on work parties who get a great sense of achievement, Join us next time!

### Home Covert

Several years ago we transplanted box seedlings from within the hedge to along one boundary, to form a boundary feature. These box plants are doing very well now, with some well over a metre tall. The orchard is also thriving, and look out for apple tree flowers over the coming weeks.



### Woodland Ways Pond

Several clumps of frogspawn was seen in the pond during our March work party, when we cleaned out the logs and other wood thrown in by our community. Hopefully the water in the pond will remain, despite the dry winter and dry spring, long enough for the newts to successfully breed.

### Litter

some of our members pick up litter outside work parties, and there are several people not linked to us who we also see picking up litter. Vast quantities are picked up. Although at times it seems like there is an endless and enthusiastic supply of litter provided by our community, we praise and thank those that do so much to make Moreton Hall a better place to live.

### Membership news

.We got in a muddle with membership renewals, with the result that some members were asked twice for subscriptions, Sorry! We'll try to catch up with the times at the next renewal date, and offer the option of payment of subs by bank transfer.

### Forthcoming events

.On Sunday 12th May, Instead of a normal work party we'll be hunting down elm in Moreton Hall. Elm once was a common tree across the UK until the early 1970s, when almost all mature trees were killed by a fungus. However, more elm has survived than most people think, as it is not susceptible to the disease until it reaches several metre tall - then it regrows from toots. So elm is still in hedges, even on Moreton hall. Come along at 10am that day at the Community Centre, in the meeting room, where we'll tell you a brief history of elm in the UK and tips on how to recognise it and where it might be found. Then in small groups we'll disperse across the area with maps, to find and record the elm we've got,

The information will be used to monitor future change, will be reported to the Council maintenance team so it can be aware, and stored by Suffolk Biodiversity Information Service indefinitely.