

'Forging partnerships that will create a sustainable future for nature'

Oxfordshire Nature Conservation Forum's Weekly Environmental E-Bulletin

4 March 2010

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GREEN GYMS (ABINGDON, BICESTER, CHIPPING NORTON, SONNING COMMON, and WALLINGFORD)

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OXFORD CONSERVATION VOLUNTEERS

OXFORD URBAN WILDLIFE GROUP

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WITNEY WOODLAND VOLUNTEERS

WYCHWOOD COUNTRYSIDE ACTION TEAM AND V

NOTICES

1. CONTACT FOR GARD

The Steventon based Group Against Reservoir Development

Latest reports at <http://www.abingdonreservoir.org.uk/latestnews.html>

2. WITHYMEAD NATURE RESERVE

This small Nature Reserve, part of The Anne Carpmael Charitable Trust, situated on the Ridgeway path between Goring and South Stoke will again be opening its grounds this spring for visitors to come and see the large areas of Loddon Lily (Summer Snowflake) and all the wide variety of wildlife that reside on this riverside site.

Opening times during April and May: every Sunday and Bank Holiday Mondays
11.00am to 4.00pm. Refreshments (tea & cakes) will be available.
Visitors/Groups who wish to visit midweek may do so but need to contact the warden on
01491 872265 to arrange this. You may phone for directions or visit our website at
www.withymead.co.uk
Admission is free but donations to our charity are always welcome.
Being a wetland site waterproof footwear is advisable.
Joyce & Brian Shaw (Wardens)

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

EVENTS

3. Thursday 5 March 1.10 pm
THE VEGETATIVE KEY TO THE BRITISH FLORA
With Dr John Poland
At the Department of Plant Sciences, South Parks Road, Oxford.
Organiser: Ashmolean Natural History Society of Oxfordshire
Voluntary Donation £1.50
Contact: S. Helm 07774 205 972

4. Friday 5 March 8 pm
GROW ZONES IN OXFORD
House244 in Oxford will be hosting an evening with EarthAbbey, a new Christian community of people helping one another to live more in tune with the earth. EarthAbbey has been piloting a project called Grow Zones, where people work in teams to turn each other's gardens over to growing fruit and veg. It has proved enormous fun, a great way to make new friends and strangely enriching in a spiritual sense. You can read more of the story at <http://www.earthingfaith.org/2010/02/18/grow-zones-reconnecting-with-the-land/>

As a result Grow Zones is about to become a national project and an event is being held at House244 to launch it in Oxfordshire. To book e or more places and receive more details, please email growzones@web-den.org.uk.
For more about Grow Zones in general visit www.earthabbey.com/growzones

5. Sunday 7 March 10.30 am
GUIDED WALK - EWELME WATERCRESS BEDS LOCAL NATURE RESERVE
(First Sunday each month), At the Watercress Centre, High St, Ewelme
DVD of old watercress industry, photo, and historic tools display followed by guided walk through the upper and lower sites of the nature reserve.
Coffee available afterwards. Stout footwear advisable
Adults £2 accompanied children free. No dogs allowed, except guide dogs

Please park away from the Centre as the High St gets very congested. There is a free car park at the east end of village beyond the school. We are also on the route of Wallingford cycle rides into the Chiltern Hills.

6. Monday 8 March 10 am - 3 pm
BIRD AND BAT BOXES (NO2)
At Sheepdrove Organic Farm - www.sheepdrove.com
Sheepdrove wildlife volunteers - another session to install homes for wildlife.
Please tell us if you're coming - Jason Ball [jason.ball@sheepdrove.com] - 01488 674727
Meet: The farm office, at Sheepdrove Eco Conference Centre, Sheepdrove Road, Lambourn, Berkshire. Directions and map at www.sheepdrove.com
Please bring a packed lunch - we will picnic on the farm! Bring clothes to suit any weather and sensible boots or wellies.

7. Monday 8 March 7.30 pm
THE IMPORTANCE OF RECORDS
Banbury Ornithological Society meeting at the Freemason's Hall, Marlborough Road, Banbury.
Trevor Easterbrook intends to speak about the BOS records and how they are used, providing information on the Random square survey. France Buckel will give an update on the BTO atlas project now that fieldwork is over half way through and will chat about other surveys taking place. All welcome
Fran Buckel [fran.buckel@btinternet.com]

8. Tuesday 9 March 1.30 - 3.30 pm
BIRD WALK AT BURY DOWN
nr Didcot, Oxon
A circular walk of about 4 miles taking in the Ridgeway at Bury Down and tracks to and from West Ilsley. We hope to see finches, winter thrushes, corn buntings and perhaps owls. There will be hills and uneven ground but no stiles. Admission: Free. Meet: At the car park by the Ridgeway on the northern road from the A34 to West Ilsley. Grid: SU 478 841. Contact: Alice Ayers 0118 9267441. Dogs on lead welcome.

9. Tuesday 9 March 8 pm
ASHMOLEAN NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY OF OXFORDSHIRE AGM
At the Earth Sciences Department, Parks Road, Oxford (Admission £2 non-members, members free).
Contact: Ellen Lee (ANHSO Publicity Secretary) aunty.ellen@ntlworld.com
www.ieem.org.uk

10. Wednesday 10 March 6.30 pm - 8.30 pm
ANNUAL COTSWOLD FARMING FORUM
At the Royal Agriculture College, Cirencester.
Climate Change and Farming - what does it actually mean for the Cotswolds?
Paul Silcock will present the findings of a study commissioned by the Cotswolds Conservation Board looking at the future of farming and forestry in the Cotswolds

AONB in light of climate change. Dr. John Conway will then explore how the farmed landscape may change if climate change predictions prove real, focusing on the already drought prone thin Cotswold soils.

Contact Mark Connelly 01451 862006, mark.connelly@cotswoldsaonb.org.uk if you would like to attend or for more information.

11. Wednesday 10 March 7.45 pm
AMPHIBIANS

A talk for Oxford Ornithological Society by Rod d'Ayala.

At Stratfield Brake Sports Ground, Kidlington.

Contact: Barry Hudson [harrier@talktalk.net] 01993 852028.

12. Friday 12 March 7.30 pm - 9 pm
FOCUS ON LOW CARBON LIVING (TALK)

£3/SO Live Friends Free

Students across the UK have been exploring how energy functions in their daily lives, and what steps can be taken to reduce energy use or be more energy-efficient. Science Oxford Live is delighted to bring you their results, as they help us focus on what Low Carbon Living would actually mean.

Booking recommended. www.scienceoxfordlive.com. 01865 810000

SCIENCEOXFORDLIVE, St Clements, Oxford

13. Saturday 13 March 10 am - 4 pm
EXPLORING NATURE AT FOXCOMBE HALL

The Open University in the South, Foxcombe Hall, Boars Hill, Oxford, OX1 5HR

Nature activities include the opportunity to:

- Explore 15 acres of our beautiful grounds at Foxcombe Hall
- Join in nature trails and pond-dipping
- Identify trees and animal habitats
- Find out how animals evolve
- Listen to a talk by a wildlife expert at 11am or 2pm

Visit our OU information zone to:

- Look at course materials and choose what you want to study
- Talk to experienced tutors and advisers
- Find out more about OU financial support for your studies

Bring a picnic to enjoy in our Italian garden. There will be tea and coffee available and indoor activities if wet.

Please note activities are suitable for children 7+; grounds are only partly accessible to wheelchairs; sorry no dogs (except guidedogs)

To book a place or find out more, contact Linda Hurst, tel 01865 327000, email south-events@open.ac.uk

http://www.open.ac.uk/cam/osfevent/?OFFAD=rclbbf&MEDIA=inc_osfevent

14. Saturday 13 March 10 am - 5 pm

FOCUS ON LOW CARBON LIVING (EXHIBITION)

Free

Students across the UK have been exploring how energy functions in their daily lives, and what steps can be taken to reduce energy use or be more energy-efficient. Science Oxford Live is delighted to bring you their results, as they help us focus on what Low Carbon Living would actually mean.

Booking recommended. www.scienceoxfordlive.com. 01865 810000

SCIENCEOXFORDLIVE, St Clements, Oxford

15. Saturday 13 March 1 - 4 pm

SEEDY SATURDAY - COMMUNITY SEED SWAP

Barracks Lane Community Garden in East Oxford

Vicki Cooke, from Garden Organic's Heritage Seed Library, will speak about seed saving. Please bring spare seeds to swap if you want.

We are very pleased to have been offered a Lottery grant via the Local Food programme, which supports projects that make locally grown food accessible and affordable to local communities. A number of events over the next three years will be linked into this programme, beginning with this one.

Feel free to come even if you don't have seeds or plants to swap.

pottyphil@yahoo.co.uk

16. Saturday 13 March 1 pm - 5 pm

FABULOUS FINDS (DROP IN)

Free

A chance for you to bring along your fossil, rock & mineral finds for our expert geologists to identify, or simply come to see our collections and what other people have brought in. A mini-exhibition of the work of the Oxfordshire Geology Trust will be on display so come along & find out what we do.

Booking recommended. www.scienceoxfordlive.com. 01865 810000

SCIENCEOXFORDLIVE, St Clements, Oxford

17. Monday 15 March 10 am - 3 pm

DOCKS AND THISTLES!

At Sheepdrove Organic Farm - www.sheepdrove.com

Sheepdrove wildlife volunteers - digging out docks and thistles at conservation areas.

Also checking the progress of new plants we have established.

Please tell us if you're coming - Jason Ball [jason.ball@sheepdrove.com] - 01488 674727

Meet: The farm office, at Sheepdrove Eco Conference Centre, Sheepdrove Road, Lambourn, Berkshire. Directions and map at www.sheepdrove.com

Please bring a packed lunch - we will picnic on the farm! Bring clothes to suit any weather and sensible boots or wellies.

18. Monday 15 March 7.30 pm for 7.45 pm

RED KITE COUNTRY - MID WALES

A talk by Mike Read for the Vale of White Horse local RSPB Group.

Another rich wildlife area - the last UK stronghold of the red kite prior to recent re-introduction programmes.

At Didcot Civic Hall, Britwell Road.

Bird food for sale. Sales table for RSPB and similar goods

<http://www.rspb-vwh.org.uk/indoor.htm>

19. Friday 19 March

07.30 pm

TALK: SECRETS OF THE GRAVELS - 4

A look at the geology and archaeology of the area and how these are linked.

Standlake Village Hall

All welcome but please pre-book by contacting Lesley Dunlop 01993 814147

lesley.dunlop@oxfordshire.gov.uk

20. Saturday 20 March

10.30 - 12.30

WALK: SECRETS OF THE GRAVELS - 5

Landscape, geology and archaeology of the northern part of the Lower Windrush Valley.

A circular walk of about 3 miles starting at the Rushy Common Car Park

All welcome but please pre-book by contacting Lesley Dunlop 01993 814147

lesley.dunlop@oxfordshire.gov.uk

21. Saturday 20 March

12 - 4 pm

OXFORDSHIRE GOES WILD

Oxfordshire Nature Conservation Forum's 7th joint event with the Oxford University Museum of Natural History.

FREE fun for the family. Come and meet live owls, bats, pond life, fish and lots of other creatures face to face. Learn about them from the experts and take part in lots of wildlife activities.

Contact: Cynth Napper at ONCF. cynth@oncf.org.uk 01865 407034.

- Does anyone have a wasp's nest we can borrow/have? Children are always fascinated by them.

22. Weekend 20 and 21 March

NORTHMOOR TRUST LAMBING WEEKEND

Hill Farm, Little Wittenham, Abingdon, Oxon OX14 4QZ

Price: Family £10 (2 adults and up to 2 children), Adults £4, Children £2

Come and see the adorable new born lambs at the Northmoor Trust. Meet the farmers

Camilla and Roly, feed and hold the lambs and maybe see a lamb being born! Also

tractor and trailer rides, sheep dog demonstrations, Sunday craft market, children's

bushcraft activities and recycling fun with the Wild Waste Show team. Poem Tree

refreshment area is open for delicious cakes and snacks. See www.northmoortrust.co.uk

23. Sunday 21 March

10.30 am - 12.30 pm

A WOODLAND WALK AT WARBURG

nr Henley, Oxon

Join us for a guided walk through the wonderful woods at Warburg Nature Reserve. The focus will be on the folklore and natural history of our native trees. Between 1 and 2

miles with some steep sections. Admission: Free. Meet: Walk starts at the car park near the visitor centre, Warburg Nature Reserve, Bix Bottom, Henley-on-Thames. RG9 6BL. Grid: SU 720 879. Contact: Abby Stephens 01491 642001 abbystephens@bbowt.org.uk. Dogs on lead welcome.

24. Monday 22 March 10 am - 5.15 pm

SUSTAINABILITY SYMPOSIUM

At Oxford Said Business School, Park End Street, Oxford OX1 1HP

The UKVA has put together a programme tailored specifically for UK vine-growers and winemakers. Sustainability, a very timely issue, is the chosen theme running through this Symposium to challenge and stimulate our audience. We are delighted that Jonathon Porritt will be launching the Symposium. This will be followed by a range of speakers dealing with every aspect of this theme. Additionally there will be parallel workshops and a poster session which delegates can attend. Mrs Sian Liwicki, UK Vineyards Association, PO Box 534, Abingdon OX14 9BZ Tel: 01865 390188 email sian@ukva.org.uk.

Download your application form at www.ukva.org.uk

25. Tuesday 23 March 7 pm

THE OXFORD GREEN LUNGS PROJECT: THE VISION AND GROUNDWORK TO DATE

By Christopher Gowers, CPRE City District Chairman.

In Oxford Town Hall. All welcome. Organised by Oxford Pedestrian's Association. (CPRE Oxfordshire Campaign Briefing: February 2010)

26. Thursday 25 March 9.00-12.30 pm

DO YOUR BIT TO PREVENT COMPULSORY SET-ASIDE IN BERKS, BUCKS AND OXON....

Learn about the Campaign for the Farmed Environment during a farm walk, followed by a locally sourced lunch and an opportunity to network.

At Phillimore Farms, Dunsden Green, Reading, Berkshire, RG4 9QG.

Keynote address....Richard Benyon MP, Shadow Minister for the Environment, Fisheries and Wildlife, who will launch the Campaign in Berks, Bucks and Oxon.

Farm walk with talks from three speakers....

FarmWildlife...Andrew Russell from Natural England Farmland Bird

Karen Davies from FWAG Resource Protection

Rob Iles from EnvironmentAgency

Locally sourced lunch provided by Berks, Bucks & Milton Keynes and Oxon Food Group. To book your place telephone local coordinator Laura Francis 03000600171 or - mail laura.francis@cfeonline.org.uk

27. 25 March

GROWING THE FUTURE

Organiser: Growing Schools

Location: Oxford

A one-day conference aiming to support all teachers, from early years through to secondary level, who are interested in expanding and improving learning outside the classroom in their schools.

Contact: www.growingschools.org.uk

28. Saturday 27 March

FREE TRADITIONAL ORCHARDS SURVEY TRAINING DAY

At The Manor, Little Wittenham, Nr Abingdon OX14 4RA

- Criteria for the UKBAP (UK Biodiversity Action Plan) habitat and recent mapping of Orchards in Oxfordshire
 - Key species to be found in Orchards: Fungi, lichens, fungus gnats and the Brown tree ant, wood-decay beetles, mistletoe inverts, etc
 - National Orchard Inventory survey methodology
 - Local Orchard Groups - how a local group orchard group can work
 - Practical survey session in local orchard, Anita Burrough
- Tea, coffee and soft drinks will be provided but please bring a packed lunch.

Places are limited please book by contacting Anita at anita@ptes.org or on 0207 498 4533 giving your name, address, postcode, email address. For any queries on location please contact Clare at ONCF on 01865 407034 or clare@oncf.org.uk

29. Thursday 22 April

9.30 am - 3.30 pm

FUN WITH ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION (KS1-2)

In this workshop participants will be shown the many different approaches that can be used in environmental education to make it fun and approachable for teacher and pupils alike. The basics of 'Earth Education' and 'Environmental Role Playing' and 'Eco-games' will be introduced. Each participant will learn new skills and take them back to share at school.

Cost £75. All attendees from Eco Schools, Healthy Schools or Forest Schools are entitled to a £5 discount.

Lunch and refreshments provided for full day courses.

Contact: Hill End Environmental and Field Study Centre, Eynsham Road, Farmoor, Oxford OX2 9NJ Tel: 01865 863510.

Email: david.millin@oxfordshire.gov.uk

30. Sunday 27 June

10 am - 4 pm

JOIN THE OXFORD GREEN SPACES SPONSORED WALK

The nine mile circular walk around Oxford has been created by CPRE Oxford with assistance from The Ramblers to highlight the threats to many of the city's much-loved green spaces. The walk will stretch from North Oxford's Trap Grounds, which achieved Town Green status in 2006, along the canal and Mill Stream to the Oxpens Meadow, then through green spaces eastwards up to the Warneford Meadow and along unsuspected green stretches back to the Trap Grounds.

At each of the three sites there will be children's activities and information stalls.

The funds raised will go towards the work of the Friends of Warneford Meadow and the Friends of Oxpens Meadow, who are fighting for Town Green status, and to CPRE City District. For more information, a sponsorship form and route map, please contact: Becky on tel: 01865 874780 or by administrator@cpreoxon.org.uk (CPRE Oxfordshire Campaign Briefing: February 2010)

VACANCIES/VOLUNTARY WORK

31. MOBILISATION PROJECT MANAGER Climate Outreach and Information Network (COIN)

£25,500 FTE pro-rata, 3 days per week. Location: Oxford

COIN is recruiting for a skilled Project Manager to manage and further develop COIN's mobilisation work. The work will involve promoting and further developing COIN's Climate Action Groups, contributing to COIN's work with Trade Union Action Groups and further development of COIN's mobilisation work across all sectors.

The successful candidate will have proven skills and experience in mobilising groups and communities on climate change together with sound communication, networking and project management skills.

For further information including an application pack, see www.coinet.org.uk. Applications to be returned by email to the Executive Director, Tim Baster on tim@coinet.org.uk.

Closing date: Friday 12th March at 5pm. Interviews on Thursday 18th March in Oxford. Short-listed candidates will be contacted by the end of the day on Sunday 14th March.

32. COMMUNITY NETWORK ADMINISTRATOR Low Carbon Communities Network

Hours: Up to 80 hours per month, Location: Oxford

The Low Carbon Communities Network is a national network aimed at linking and supporting the rapidly growing movement of local and community level climate change groups. To take forward our work programme, we are seeking a person to provide professional administrative support, working with and providing coordination for the LCCN Management Committee Activities including subgroups on Development, Fundraising, and Policy and with gradually taking overall responsibility for the communications of the Network including web site updating and further development.

This is an exciting opportunity to play a key role in the development of the Network at this important time. The successful candidate will be a self-starter, highly motivated to tackle the range of challenges arising from climate change and a strong belief in the power of community to bring about fundamental change. S/he will have some experience

of web site maintenance, excellent communication skills with an ability to write engaging copy for a variety of audiences and strong interpersonal and networking skills.

This position will be based in Oxford at the offices of Climate Outreach and Information Network where the LCCN is currently being hosted. There is potential for some home working.

To apply, please send your CV and covering letter to Chris Church (chrischurch@cooptel.net). Closing date: Friday 19th March

33. EDUCATION TRAINEE FOR BBOWT

Location: Based at Sutton Courtenay Environmental Education Centre (SCEEC), nr Didcot

Hours: 3 days per week; Mon, Tues, Weds preferred but negotiable. A commitment of 6-12 months is required

We are on the look-out for an enthusiastic Education Trainee to help expand the schools programme and other family events within the evolving educational activities at the site.

You will be involved in assisting and leading school group activities, as well as supporting the development and delivery of a programme of educational activities. You may also be asked to become involved with events for specialist groups and the general public. There will also be an opportunity for developing educational resources and facilities.

Essential: Desire to work in environmental education / Desire to work with children, young people and adults / Ability to work with a range of people from different age groups and backgrounds / Willingness to develop the skills and standards required to carry out environmental education and family events / The ability to deal with the general public, Trust members and volunteers in a friendly and professional manner in a variety of situations / Willingness to work occasional weekends

Desirable: Valid driving licence / Experience of working with children, and young people / Relevant education and/or experience

For an informal chat, application form and full role description please contact Cathie Hasler on 01865 788309 or cathiehasler@bbowt.org.uk.

Deadline is Monday 8 March 2010. Interviews on Wednesday 17 March 2010

Please note that we do not accept CVs for this post

REGULAR WORK PARTIES

ASTON ROWANT NATIONAL NATURE RESERVE VOLUNTEER GROUP

Aston Rowant NNR is one of the country's most important reserves. Renowned for its Red Kites and rare wild flowers the reserve is primarily species-rich chalk grassland and beech woodland, and needs a lot of regular maintenance. We have a good network of pathways and 270 sheep on the reserve which need checking daily.

Site management tasks are led by our experienced site managers and may include scrub clearance, path maintenance, fencing, species protection, interpretation and even livestock husbandry. We also need helpers for public events!

Members of the group can do tasks according to their ability and will gain valuable skills for career development or personal achievement as well as enjoying the social side of volunteering!

When: Regular group meets every Monday but volunteers welcome Mon-Thur. From 9.00am - however long you want to stay, usually up until around 4.30pm

Where: Meet at Aston Rowant NNR Natural England Office. J5 M40 - follow signs to A40 towards Stokenchurch. After turning onto the A40 take the first right and follow the track up to the office on the left. If you reach signs to the reserve and Christmas Common you have gone too far!

Please Bring: Drink and packed lunch. Hot drinks provided. Also bring warm, wet weather clothing and sturdy footwear. Gloves and safety equipment provided.

Experience: No experience necessary as training for all tasks is provided on the day. The group ranges in experience, all you need is lots of enthusiasm!

Application: You will need to complete an application form when you start volunteering, please contact us if you wish to join.

Expenses: Travel costs are covered.

Insurance: All volunteers over 15 years of age are covered by Natural England insurance.

Contact: Jenny Crook / Bob Silverwood / Mick Venters on 01844 351833

Email: jenny.crook@naturalengland.org.uk

BARTON FIELDS:

If you are a new member and would like to join us please phone either David Guyoncourt on 01235 529151 or Jo Cartmell on 01235 534424.

The Barton Fields Green Team will meet on the following days:

Saturday	23rd January	9:30 am	Scrub bashing / removing tree-guards
Thursday	4th February	1:30 pm	Scrub bashing / removing tree-guards
Wednesday	17th February	9:30 am	Strimming/ slashing around scrapes
Saturday	27th February	9:30 am	Strimming / slashing around scrapes
Thursday	11th March	1:30 pm	Strimming / slashing in Willow Carr
Wednesday	24th March	9:30 am	Strimming / slashing in Willow Carr

Refreshments will be provided. Wellies advised.

We look forward to seeing you there.

BARRACKS LANE COMMUNITY GARDEN PROJECT

Just a reminder of events this weekend at the garden - on Saturday 21st there is a Drop in Day and Swap Shop between 10 and 4pm, and on Sunday 22nd the Garden Group is

meeting between 2 and 4pm (please note that the start time is an hour later than shown on the website and 2009 calendar).

Regular events are the Permaculture Group (first Saturday of every month, 1-4pm), and the Garden Group (second and fourth Sundays, 2-4pm). The next Drop in Day will be Saturday March 14th, and the next Swap Shop is on Saturday 21st.

This summer I will be helping to co-ordinate events at the garden, taking on much of the work previously done by Katy Beinart. I am also taking over the job of running the Garden Guardians scheme from Viki Patey; if any Friends are interested in becoming a Guardian, please let me know. The scheme enables the garden to be open regularly at weekends when there are no planned events, and being a Guardian is an excellent way to gift yourself some regular time in the garden.

Barracks Lane Community Garden Project
Charity No. 1116544 and incorporated as Company No. 05945388
Website details - www.barrackslanegarden.org.uk

BBOWT WORK PARTIES :

CHINNOR HILL, NR CHINNOR

Second Sunday of every month (ring to confirm) 10.30am

Come and join our friendly team and help out with a variety of practical conservation tasks on this magnificent reserve. Enjoy spectacular views over the Vale of Aylesbury as red kites pass overhead. Newcomers and children very welcome.

Meet: Hill Top Lane carpark. SP 766 002.

Contact: Mike Turton 01844 351443 or 07734 361695 (leave a message).

FRIENDS OF CHIMNEY MEADOWS, NR BAMPTON

Various Thursdays and Sundays

Practical conservation and access work. The more the merrier and the faster the progress!

BOOKING ESSENTIAL. Contact: Kerry Lock 01367 870904.

FRIENDS OF CS LEWIS, NR HEADINGTON

First Sunday of every month 10.30am-4pm

The friends of CS Lewis Nature Reserve are working hard to preserve their interesting, welcoming nature reserve. Join us to help maintain paths, steps, boardwalks, to survey various species, and to keep the nature reserve litter free.

Meet: Reserve entrance on Lewis Close, Risinghurst. SP 560 065.

Contact: David Fordham 01865 400676.

FRIENDS OF SUTTON COURTENAY, NR DIDCOT

Every other Monday 10am-2.30pm

Every 4th Sunday of each month 10am-1pm

A range of practical conservation tasks from digging ponds to making bird boxes. Please bring a packed lunch. Tea and coffees provided. Wear stout footwear and old clothing.

Meet: SCEEC car park SU 501 918

Contact: Katie Fenton 01235 862024 katiefenton@bbowt.org.uk

MIDWEEK TEAM, OXFORD

Every Wednesday 9am-4pm

Practical work on reserves in Oxon and Bucks (transport provided). Tasks such as reed cutting and scrub clearance in beautiful locations! Bring lunch, a drink and suitable old clothes and footwear for all weather and terrains.

Meet: The Lodge, 1 Armstrong Rd, Littlemore. OX4 4XT.

Contact: Cathie Hasler 01865 788309 cathiehasler@bbowt.org.uk.

RUSHBEDS WOOD/LAPLAND FARM.

First Sunday of every month Sept through March. Meet 100am, usually at gateway SP667154. Ring to confirm. Bring lunch if staying all day. We are a small but very active, welcoming group.. A varied reserve with woodland and hay meadows.

Contact: Becky Woodell 0845 4589237

WHITECROSS GREEN WOOD

Every Sunday except 1st Sunday of the month, Sept through March. Ring to confirm.

Meet 1000 am in reserve carpark SP600150. Bring lunch if staying all day. We are a small but very active, welcoming group. The reserve is nationally known for its butterflies, especially hairstreaks.

Contact: Becky Woodell 0845 4589237

WILDLIFE GARDENING, LITTLEMORE

Every other Monday 10.30am

Practical tasks including basic horticultural techniques, composting and water conservation. Meet: BBOWT Littlemore HQ, The Lodge, 1 Armstrong Rd, Littlemore. OX4 4XT.

Contact: Maggie Piggott 01865 775476 maggiepiggott@bbowt.org.uk

CUTTLE BROOK NATURE RESERVE VOLUNTEER WORK PARTIES

Come and join our friendly teams on this lovely nature reserve in Thame. Work parties are held twice a month, on the first Wednesday and third Sunday. Meet in the scout hut car park (next to the Southern Road recreation ground), at 10am. All ages and abilities welcome.

For more details see the website: www.cuttlebrook..org.uk

or email: info@cuttlebrook.org.uk

GREEN GYMS

Are based at Abingdon, Bicester, Chipping Norton, Sonning Common and Wallingford. Green Gym is a unique scheme to help people become physically and mentally healthier by taking part in nature conservation activities to improve their local environment. For more information, see the website www.btcv.org/greengym. For all tasks wear sturdy boots and old clothes, bring waterproofs if wet.

ABINGDON GREEN GYM

We meet on Saturday mornings 9.30-12.30.

Contact: Eleanor Dangerfield, Mob: 07931 363465 Home: 01235 531 857

eledanger@hotmail.com or, Margaret Notley, Mob: 07764 253674

margaret.notley@stfc.ac.uk

Under 16s accompanied by an adult are welcome.

We provide : All tools and tea and coffee for a mid morning break.

BICESTER GREEN GYM

BOOKING: Unless otherwise stated please ring 01869-600952 to let us know you're coming, or email via the website.

CHILDREN: Under 16's accompanied by a guardian are welcome.

WE PROVIDE: All tools, training and refreshments.

PLEASE WEAR Old clothes and sturdy shoes or boots (trainers not advisable).

TETANUS: Please ensure that your tetanus inoculation is up to date.

MOBILE NO. ON DAY: 07708 400781

WEBSITE: www.bicestergreengym.org

WOODSTOCK & CHIPPING NORTON GREEN GYM

We carry out practical conservation every Wednesday on sites around West Oxfordshire & everyone is welcome to come along.

Please ring Jenny Harrington on 01608 643 269 or email

jennyharrington@btinternet.com before a project to let us know you're coming.

CHILDREN : Under 16s accompanied by a guardian are welcome.

WE PROVIDE All tools, training and refreshments.

PLEASE WEAR old clothes and sturdy shoes or boots (trainers not advisable).

TETANUS : Please ensure that your tetanus inoculation is up to date.

MOBILE NO. ON DAY: 07835 258 346

SONNING COMMON GREEN GYM

Full information and map references on www.greengym.org/sonningcommon

<<http://www.greengym.org/sonningcommon>>

WALLINGFORD GREEN GYM

Contact: Jennifer Brooker, Wallingford Green Gym co-ordinator

Tel: 01491 826157. Email: jembrooker@freenet.co.uk

HENLEY WILDLIFE GROUP WORK PARTIES:

Work parties are generally pleasant and sociable occasions. We hope you will join us - all are welcome. Our work parties are conducted according to BTCV guidelines.

Mill Meadows

Wednesdays 3 June, 1 July and 5 August and 2 September from 09.30 to 12.30

Meet in the River and Rowing Museum car park. For more information please contact Sally Rankin.

Chalk Bank

Wednesdays 8 July, 09.30 to 12.30. Meet by the Knappe Close entrance to the site. For more information please contact David Parry.

NORTHMOOR TRUST REGULAR WORK PARTIES

FRIDAYS AND SATURDAYS

NEW- Now also on the 1st Saturday of every month

Join our friendly team to help out with a variety of practical tasks across the estate at Little Wittenham and on Northmoor Trust managed sites in Wallingford and Didcot. Everyone is welcome to come and get involved. No experience necessary, just bags of enthusiasm. Bring a packed lunch and wear suitable outdoor clothing including stout shoes/boots and bring waterproofs. All tools provided and training given.

Friday group meet every week at 9.00am at Hill Farm, Little Wittenham.

Saturday group meet at 10am on the 1st Saturday of every month- please see website www.northmoortrust.co.uk <<http://www.northmoortrust.co.uk>> for details of forthcoming tasks and locations.

Contact Alison Lee on 07982 059645 or alison.lee@northmoortrust.co.uk for more info.

OXFORD CONSERVATION VOLUNTEERS

We organise projects throughout the area almost every Sunday, including coppicing, hedgelaying, fence and path building and scrub clearance. Check our website for details of this week's task. www.ocv.org.uk

Free minibus pickups from outside Tesco Metro on Cowley Road at 9:20am and outside the Lamb and Flag pub on St Giles at 9:30am. You don't have to tell us that you're coming, just turn up at a pickup point on Sunday morning, or meet us at the site itself if you prefer.

We provide tools, training and hot drinks. Under-16s welcome if accompanied by a parent or guardian. Bring a packed lunch and wear old clothes. We aim to be back in Oxford by 5:30pm at the latest. For more information visit our web site at www.ocv.org.uk or contact Chris Skepper on 07939 723427 or e-mail tasks@ocv.org.uk.

OXFORD URBAN WILDLIFE GROUP

Ouwg holds weekly Sunday work parties at Boundary Brook Nature Park.

Come and help Oxford Urban Wildlife Group to manage this thriving nature park, which now has SLINC status. You can choose your task from a variety of jobs. A warm welcome guaranteed. Access to the reserve is on the cycle track near Larkrise School, Boundary Brook Road (off Iffley Road opposite Donnington Bridge Road junction), Oxford.

Time: 10.00am - 1.00pm.

Please ring Alan for details on 07979 608 013 and check on the day if the weather is doubtful.

If you would like to work on other days, please contact Alan.

Old clothes and stout footwear are advisable. Some gloves available but bring your own if you wish. Stop a bit longer for a hot drink at the end of the work party.

www.ouwg.org.uk

SHOTOVER CONSERVATION WORK DAYS

2nd Sunday of each month.

We meet at 10am at Shotover Car Park, Old Road, Headington, Oxford

The work day finishes at 3pm but you don't have to stay till the end

Tools and gloves provided. Bring a drink and lunch

Everyone welcome (no dogs)

Contact: Ivan Wright 01865 874423 enquiries@shotover-wildlife.org.uk

www.shotover-wildlife.org.uk

EWELME WATERCRESS BEDS and LOCAL NATURE RESERVE TASKS

First Saturday and third Wednesday each month Ewelme Watercress Beds Centre.

Near Wallingford. SU641916. Bring Wellies. Details of tasks from Tom

Stevenson on 01491-836888 or email thomas.stevenson@ntlworld.com

Also on the web site at <http://www.ewelmewatercressbeds.org>

ST MARY & ST JOHN CHURCHYARD

(Cowley Road, East Oxford).

Volunteers are invited to help maintain the churchyard as a wildlife conservation area.

Work sessions are Saturday afternoons 2 - 4pm.

There's a variety of tasks: weeding out the invasive plants; strimming specific areas while protecting habitats and food for wildlife; occasional planting and pruning; surveying and keeping records of the plants, birds, butterflies and bees. Come for entire sessions or just the occasional hour. Tools are provided. See www.ssmjchurchyard.org.uk. Ruth Conway 01865 723085

WENDLEBURY WOODLAND PROJECT VOLUNTEERS

- working in Bowler's Copse (map reference : SP564203)

7th Season of the regeneration of a remnant of a hazel copse. We will be harvesting hazel from a small section; sorting into useable materials for bean pole bundles & pea stick bundles, stakes & binders for fencing. We hope to try hurdle making too.

No heavy work expected. Tools and drinks supplied. Please bring your own gloves.

Working dates: January/February 2010 : Working times 10.00 - 14.00 (not in heavy rain)

Our Tuesday dates are as follows: Jan 12, 19, 26, Feb 02, 09,16

Our Saturday dates are as follows: Jan 30 and possibly Feb. 20"

Phone 01869 243967 MIKE PEARCE for more information and/or look at www.wendlebury.org.uk for link to the copse activities in the past.

WITNEY WOODLAND VOLUNTEERS

We meet every Monday at 10 a.m. under the clock by Waitrose in Witney to do a range of interesting and rewarding conservation projects in the Witney area, finishing at midday when we go for a friendly lunch together.

If you'd like to come and join us please phone Juliet Curry on 01993 702202.

WYCHWOOD CAT (Countryside Action Team)

1st Saturday of the month, 10-1.00. Join like minded people of all ages in West Oxfordshire for a morning of habitat management activities such as tree planting, hedgelaying, scrub clearance etc. No previous experience is required and it doesn't matter how fit you are as you can do as much or as little as you want to. Tools and appropriate on site training will be provided. For more information please contact Jane Bowley on 01993 814131 or email Liz Brandom on liz.brandom@oxfordshire.gov.uk. Or look at our website for more details www.wychwoodproject.org

WYCHWOOD V

3rd Sunday of the month for anyone aged 16-25; from 10-1.00. Habitat management work in West Oxfordshire. No experience necessary, all tools and on site training will be provided. Gain nationally recognised awards for your volunteering that will be good for your cv and job applications, learn new skills and meet new people and have a lot of fun. For more information please call Jane Bowley on 01993 814131 or email jane.bowley@oxfordshire.gov.uk. Or look at our website <http://www.wychwoodproject.org/wychwoodv>

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