

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

Oxfordshire Nature Conservation Forum's Weekly Environmental E-Bulletin

5 July 2007

(The comments and notices featured in this bulletin do not necessarily reflect the views of ONCF)

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NOTICES

1. 51 NEW SUBSCRIBERS - THANK YOU!

Many thanks to everyone who 'joined' a friend a colleague to our weekly environmental bulletin. Your efforts are much appreciated. But we don't want you to stop - we still have a target of 1,000 to reach. Please spread the word - anyone who wants to receive this bulletin (free of charge) should email cynth@oncf.org.uk - thank you.

2. BULLETIN FEEDBACK QUESTIONNAIRE

I would also like to get some feedback on this environmental bulletin fairly soon – how useful it is to you, if you attend any of the meetings/events advertised, if you follow up any web-links, what else could go on there... etc. I want the bulletin to be as useful as it can be, both to those of you working /interested in nature conservation and to those working/interested in climate change, recycling etc. So, do please take a minute to answer the questions when it comes out shortly and send it back to me. Many thanks! Cynth (cynth@oncf.org.uk).

3. NORTHMOOR TRUST FRIDAY WORK PARTY

This new group meets every Friday at 9.00am at Hill Farm, Little Wittenham.

Everyone is welcome to come and help out. Work is to be done on the nature reserve at Little Wittenham and on Northmoor Trust managed sites in Wallingford and Didcot.

Bring a drink and packed lunch and wear suitable outdoor clothing including stout shoes/boots and bring waterproofs. All tools provided and training given.

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

4. ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE SHORT COURSES

Capacity Global is offering an Environmental Justice Short Course running along with Ruskin College Oxford and FIELD, concentrating on the main aspects of Environmental Justice and Social Equality.

What does environmental justice and social equality mean?... EJ is about equal and fair access to a healthy environment. All people have the right to a safe, healthy, productive, and sustainable environment.

The topics will include:

Basic principles of EJ

Does everyone have the right to a clean and healthy environment

Why access to environmental information can fight poverty

When does climate change become a crime

Where is the 'right' place to put an incinerator

The course is ASAT accredited and will be run at Ruskin College in Oxford. It will be held as a 2 day residential where accommodation in the halls of residence is included in the cost. All are

welcome on this course and you do not need any prior qualifications, knowledge or experience, just enthusiasm to learn about what you can do to make a difference.

The aim is to help you think of ways you can tackle environmental issues in your local areas/communities and even your work place.

The course is split into two parts that allows you to choose the level you want to study up to. Both courses are co hosted by Capacity Global, the Foundation for International Environmental Law and Development (FIELD) and will be run by Ruskin College, Oxford. On completion of each course participants will receive a certificate accredited by Ruskin College.

Venue: Ruskin College, Walton Street, Oxford, OX1 2HE

Cost: Free for unwaged, £37.50 for low-income and £150 for higher education applicants.

Info: Contact Capacity tel: 020 31170102 email: ejactivists@capacity.org.uk

Book: Contact Ruskin web: www.ruskin.ac.uk tel: 01865554331

5. OXFORD ECO HOUSING

We welcome people who are interested in helping to establish an eco/co-housing group. The group aims to set up one or more projects ASAP in Oxfordshire and are looking for enthusiastic individuals, couples or families, of any age and background, to be a part of this new and exciting project. The open meeting is on Monday the 16th of July starting at 7pm (BYO nibbles starting at 6.30pm). For further information and venue details please contact simrichards@mac.com or Margot on 01865 771155.

6. SUSTAINABLE SCHOOLS TOOLKIT

The Sustainable Schools toolkit is designed to support stakeholders in their communications to others – be they in schools, local authorities or others interested in sustainable schools.

The Communications toolkit can be downloaded from

www.teachernet.gov.uk/sustainableschools/tools/tools_detail.cfm?id=11

Further resources to support the Year of Action are available from

www.teachernet.gov.uk/sustainableschools/yearofaction.

7. ARE YOU A TEACHER INTERESTED IN CLIMATE CHANGE?

Meeting date: This group meets every two months.

Location: Northmoor Trust. Little Wittenham. Home of the new interactive Project Timescape and the Wild Waste Show.

Time: 4.00-5.30pm

We are looking for primary school teachers concerned about Climate Change who would like to join a group of like minded people.

This group meets regularly and shares ideas, develops hands on lessons and enables participants to deliver them in their classrooms.

Experts on Climate Change are available to help in some meetings.

For further details or to book a place:

Contact Claire Poulton, Director of Education and Training at The Northmoor Trust.

Claire.poulton@Northmoortrust.uk

8. ORGANIC FARMING

The Soil Association has launched a consultation on whether air-freighted food should lose its Organic Status. <http://www.planetark.com/dailynewsstory.cfm/newsid/42241/story.htm> (CPRE Oxfordshire Campaign Briefing: 4 July 2007)

9. SMALL SCALE BIOFUELS

Following on from the HMRC consultation on simplification for biofuels production, they have now confirmed that the measures will be introduced on 30 June 2007. They will create a

production threshold of 2,500 litres per annum below which producers will not need to register premises, submit returns or pay duty. All registered producers will be sent information and asked to return a declaration that they produce less than the threshold. Those who declare that they expect to produce less will be deregistered, become exempt producers and will not receive any further returns. Monthly production records will be required on an ongoing basis. The NFU is still disappointed that the threshold could not be set at a more reasonable 5,000 litres but HMRC will review after 12 months. From NFU weekly bulletin jill.williams@nfu.org.uk.

10. GRANTS FOR ENERGY CROPS

The Government has responded to another NFU key demand by retaining grants of £1000/ha for short rotation coppice, although miscanthus grants have been reduced to £800/ha under the England Rural Development Programme. The proposal is subject to EU approval and may not come into effect for another six months. From NFU weekly bulletin jill.williams@nfu.org.uk

11. VOLUNTEERING WITH BTCV

Details about BTCV's volunteering opportunities in Oxfordshire can be found here: http://www.btcv.org.uk/cgi-bin/office_opps_ind.cgi?ref=982423208®ion=se

12. EVERY ACTION COUNTS - COMMUNITY CHAMPIONS

So what's a Community Champion? It's someone who encourages local community groups, clubs and societies, to take small actions that support 'one planet living', by creating an action plan to create a more sustainable future. BTCV is looking to identify and train 1000 Community Champions in England over the next two years, as part of the Government's Every Action Counts Campaign. Anyone can become a Community Champion, from individual members of existing groups to professional community workers. All reasonable costs, including the course fees, transport and accommodation (if required) for everyone who goes on the two day Community Champions training course are paid for. Access to most of the Environmental Trainers Network training courses is free to Community Champions as well; (these normally cost £105/£160 excluding VAT).

Details about Community Champions and the opportunity to register on-line can be found here: <http://www2.btcv.org.uk/display/everyactioncounts>

EVENTS

Can you walk, cycle, use public transport or share a lift to your chosen event? Visit Sustrans at <http://tinyurl.co.uk/s0dq>, the Oxford Bus Company at <http://www.oxfordbus.co.uk/>, Stagecoach Buses at <http://www.stagecoachbus.com/> or Oxfordshire County Council public transport information at <http://tinyurl.co.uk/wt9>

13. Weekend of 14 and 15 July 10 am – 6 pm

THE CHILDREN'S FOOD FESTIVAL

Patrons: Raymond Blanc & Sophie Grigson

The UK's first ever Children's Food Festival

A Northmoor Trust Event in association with the School Food Trust

Guests include: Raymond Blanc, Sophie Grigson, Prue Leith, Annabel Karmel, Antonio Carluccio and Nora Sands, from the TV programme *Jamie's School Dinners*

Try out: smoothie blending, chapati rolling, pasta making and pizza tossing...

Mexican, Thai, Egyptian and Caribbean food & Farmers' Market

Farm animals and 'gastro-comedy'

Festival Director, Eka Morgan, says: "The festival is about children having a fantastic time and becoming explorers in the world of real food. It will give children the chance to relish fresh ingredients and revel in the art of cooking - a full-on smell and taste experience!"

Venue: Abingdon Airfield, 5 miles south of Oxford (follow signs to Dalton Barracks from A34)
Free entry (£6 charge for car parking)
No need to book, if the festival reaches capacity, visitor numbers will be regulated.
More info: www.childrensfoodfestival.co.uk

PS – the organisers need more volunteers to help with this festival. All volunteers are provided with lunch and a colourful, limited-edition Children's Food Festival apron for keeps! Contact Caroline Robson on 01865 409425

14. Thursday 12 July 11.00 am

DOWNLAND WALK AT ASTON ROWANT NATIONAL NATURE RESERVE

An Abingdon Naturalists field meeting to look for butterflies and rare flowers. Leader: Camilla Lambrick. Leave the M40, Junction 6 near Lewknor, turn left, head north along B4009 for 100 m until you meet A40. Turn right towards Stokenchurch. Go up through woods to staggered junction at the top of hill where the trees open out. Take right turn towards Christmas Common. Go over the M40 and after about a mile park at the Forestry Commission picnic place at Cowleaze Wood (SU726955). We will walk from there, taking our packed lunches.

Car sharing is strongly recommended. Anyone without transport should telephone Jo Cartmell on 01235 534424 who will try to arrange a lift. Offers from car drivers will be welcomed.

15. Thursday 12 July 1 – 4 pm

SITE VISIT TO ALDBURY NOWERS AND PITSTONE HILL

(near Tring). A Chilterns Chalk Grassland Network meeting. An opportunity to:

see the recent chalk grassland restoration works at Albury Nowers
discuss the work with the project manager

see the progress on a former arable site at Pitstone Hills, now reverting to chalk grassland
hear from the National Trust about chalk grassland management at Pitstone Hills and Ivinghoe Beacon

meet up with others who manage chalk grassland in the Chilterns

BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL – PLEASE CONTACT DONNA HUNTER ON 01844 355504 OR dhunter@chilternsaonb.org to book your place. You will then be sent further details including the meeting point. For any other queries, contact Kath Daly on 01844 3555324, kdaly@chilternsaonb.org

16. Friday 13 July 2.15 pm

CPRE'S NEW OXFORD GREEN BELT WAY OPENING

CPRE's 50 mile circular trail around the Green Belt will be officially opened by Boris Johnson MP at 2.15pm. Assemble at Shotover Country Park (car park at end of Old Road, Headington) at 2.00pm. The opening will be followed by a 30 minute walk down to Horspath + refreshments. All welcome.

17. Friday 13 July 7.30 pm

ANCIENT TREES

A talk for Wantage Field Club by Jill Butler. At Wantage Civic Hall. Non-members £3.

Contact: Patsyjones@aol.com

18. Saturday 14 July 9.45 am -12 pm

GUIDED WALKS AT CHIMNEY MEADOWS

A BBOWT event. Bampton, Oxon

Join the Chimney Meadows Project Officer for a pleasant walk through our developing flower meadows and wetland and learn about the exciting plans afoot. The terrain is flat and easy going. Sturdy footwear and waterproofs advised. Bring binoculars if possible.

Meet: Chimney office (signposted in the Chimney hamlet). Drive through the wooden gate and park on the right hand side. SP 358 009. Wheelchair access to some parts of the reserve. Donations welcome. **BOOKING ESSENTIAL**. Contact Kerry Lock 01367 870904.

Visit www.bbwt.org.uk for up-to-date information on all events:

19. Saturday 14 July 10.30 am - 12.30 pm

BOG BOTANY

A BBOWT event. Abingdon, Oxon

Explore Parsonage Moor nature reserve with John Killick, co-author of 'The Flora of Oxfordshire'. Distance approx. 1 mile. Parsonage Moor is very boggy so waterproof boots are essential. Likely to see rushes, sedges, cotton grass and marsh louseworts. Bring a packed lunch if you would like to picnic in Dry Sandford Pit in the afternoon. Meet: Dry Sandford Pit Nature Reserve carpark in Cothill village, 100m west of Honeybottom Lane/Church Lane junction. SU 467 997.

Admission £2. **BOOKING ESSENTIAL** as numbers are restricted to 20. Contact Liz Ince 01865 300658.

20. Saturday 14 July 10.30 am - 4.00 pm

FANTASTIC FOSSIL DAY

A FREE event for all the family with lots to see and do. Find out about Jurassic Oxford, see local fossils and dinosaur bones, bring your fossils along and have them identified, make plaster cast fossils and dinosaur masks or design your own dinosaur. Also, take part in some practical geoconservation by helping to clear the old quarry faces of scrub and debris. Refreshments provided. Meet at Rock Edge Local Nature Reserve, near the Junction of Old Road and Windmill Road, Headington, Oxford. For details call the Rangers 01865 715830 or email via our website at <http://tinyurl.com/m4yhj>. This event run jointly by Oxford City Council and the Oxfordshire Geology Trust www.oxfordshiregt.org.

21. Saturday 14 July 3 – 7 pm

BREACH WOOD FAIR 2007

Pole Lathers from the Oxfordshire Woodland Craft Club

Chrissie's Owls from the local owl sanctuary

Woodland craft demonstrations, games, puzzles

Painting, music, singing, storytelling

Crafts, activities & relay race for children & teenagers

Relax with family & friends; enjoy the barbeque, cakes & drinks, including wine from Bridewell vineyard

A summer afternoon to remember

for family and friends!

Bring your own rugs and chairs; maybe an umbrella (for shade or shelter)

Enquiries to: Clare Musson or Jo Edwards 772403 / 702164

22. Saturday 14 July 8 pm

MOTH-TRAPPING AT RADLEY

A moth-trapping evening at Thrupp Cottage, Barton Lane, Radley (SU 517973) by kind permission of Karen and Andy Durkin, where we may be lucky enough to see the Waved Black Moth. Bring torches and bat detectors. Leader: Dr Robert Eeles

Meet at the venue and time stated. Car sharing is strongly recommended. Anyone without transport should telephone one of the officers or committee members who will try to arrange a lift. Offers from car drivers will be welcomed. Field Meetings Secretary: Jo Cartmell. Tel: 01235 534424.

23. Saturday 14 July 10 pm

GLOW WORM GUIDED WALK

Aston Rowant National Nature Reserve. Free and suitable for children. Booking essential. Meet at the Natural England office. From junction 5 of M40 travel northwest on A40 towards Oxford. Turn left onto the Ridgeway path, signposted Natural England (English Nature) office and take the second driveway on the left. Contact Anne Barr for more information on 01844 351833 or Anne.Barr@naturalengland.org.uk.

Please Note: the glow worm guided walks previously advertised for the 6th and 7th July have had to be cancelled due to staff changes.

24. Sunday July 15 9.30 am – 3.30 pm

SOLITARY BEES IDENTIFICATION COURSE

Tutor: Ivan Wright (Shotover Wildlife)

Cost £25.00

Tutor: The workshops are aimed at enthusiastic, adult beginners and will provide a basic introduction to the identification of the different invertebrate groups. Microscopes will be used where appropriate, but experience in microscope use is NOT ESSENTIAL. Equipment will be supplied but, if possible, please bring hand lens.

Please bring your own packed lunch - coffee and tea are provided.

For further information or to make a booking please contact Lawrence Bee at:

Hill End Field Study Centre, Eynsham Road, Farmoor, Oxford OX2 9NJ

Tel: 01865 863510

Fax: 01865 862065

Email: lawrence.bee@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Lawrence Bee (Hill End Field Study Centre)

25. Sunday 15 July 10.30 am - 12.30 pm

BUTTERFLY BONANZA

A BBOWT event. Henley-on-Thames, Oxon

Experience the abundance of butterfly species with a leisurely stroll around the spectacular Warburg nature reserve. The walk will be approximately 1.5 miles with no stiles, but bring stout footwear as ground may be uneven. Ideal for families.

Meet: Car park at Warburg Nature Reserve. SU 720 879.

Admission £2 adults, £1 children. **BOOKING ESSENTIAL.**

Contact: Jenni Hignett 01491 642001. • 7+ yrs

26. Saturday 21 July 9.30 – 16.30

BOARDWALK CONSTRUCTION

Folly Park, Faringdon, Oxfordshire

A BTCV course.

Cost £0/£48/£65 (depending on circumstances) The course is free to people aged 16 - 25 who have not volunteered with BTCV before.

The course will start with an indoor presentation lasting about an hour, followed by the opportunity to construct a new section of boardwalk in Folly Park. Although the course ends at 4:30, anyone attending will have the opportunity to remain on-site for longer with the course tutor, to practice his/her newly learnt skills.

Contact: BTCV Global Volunteering Programme:

[http://www.btcv.org.uk/cgi-](http://www.btcv.org.uk/cgi-bin/office_opps_ind_task.cgi?region=se&office=982423208&task=1182463181.7311750)

[bin/office_opps_ind_task.cgi?region=se&office=982423208&task=1182463181.7311750](http://www.btcv.org.uk/cgi-bin/office_opps_ind_task.cgi?region=se&office=982423208&task=1182463181.7311750)

BTCV Online Shop:

<http://shop.btcv.org.uk/shop/level4/2/stock/6157>

27. Sunday 22 July 2 – 5 pm
BOUNDARY BROOK NATURE PARK - SUMMER OPEN DAY
At bottom of Boundary Brook Road off Iffley Road.
See summer flowers and butterflies; guided walks, pond-dipping; plant and book stalls. Admission free, under 14s to be accompanied by an adult.
Oxford Urban Wildlife Group (contact Janet Keene 01865 820522)

28. Monday 23 – Wednesday 25 July
CHANGING THE WORLD. CLIMATE CHANGE: THE MOST URGENT ISSUE OF OUR TIME
Ruskin College and COIN (Climate Outreach & Information Network) are proud to present.
A residential course at Ruskin College, Oxford
What are the facts about climate change?
How can people mobilise around climate change?
What will a 'carbon-free' society look like?

You do not need prior experience or knowledge. Designed for trade union, tenant, BME and community activists. In fact, anyone who really wants to act on climate change. Speakers from the environmental movement and COIN activists will work with you, offering a range of practical suggestions and sharing their knowledge.

Topics will include: The evidence for climate change; The science of climate change.
Who is responsible for climate change? How will society change as a result of climate change?
Mobilising people around the social changes of climate change.
What you can do now, soon and within a lifetime. Green lifestyles.
To book, call 0870 0660854 or download an application form from the Short Courses web page (www.ruskin.ac.uk/courses/short_courses.php)
Free to those on benefits; £36 for those who have not had previous experience of Higher Education and £150 for those who have had Higher Education. These fees include accommodation and meals. A non-residential fee of £75 is also available.
For more information, please see the COIN website (www.coinet.org.uk/projects/ruskincourse) or contact Mim Saxl at COIN on 01865 727911, mim@coinet.org.uk

VACANCIES

29. ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME MANAGER – FUTURE FIRST
(Maternity Cover for up to one year)

Oxford

£29,010 - £31,653 pa (pay award pending)

This is an exciting time to lead and develop the Council's high profile Future First environment programme. As well as managing a range of activities across the council to reduce Oxfordshire County Council's environmental footprint, you will co-ordinate projects in schools to save energy and waste, and run the Oxfordshire Sustainability and Conservation Awards (OSCA's).

We are looking for someone with strong influencing and negotiating skills and the ability to lead and motivate a range of internal and external partners. This is an excellent opportunity for a secondment.

Application pack from jobs@oxfordshire.gov.uk or call 0845 050 9500 quoting the job title.

Closing Date: 9am Monday 23 July 2007

Interview Date: Week beginning 30 July 2007

REGULAR WORK PARTIES

OXFORD URBAN WILDLIFE GROUP

Ouwg holds fortnightly 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. Please ring Alan for details on 07979 608 013. 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 from April onwards.

If you would like to work on other Sundays or on a weekday, 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 workparty.

www.ouwg.org.uk

SOUTH CHILTERN VOLUNTEER TASKS

First Saturday and third Wednesday each month Ewelme Watercress Beds. Near Wallingford. SU641916. Bring Wellies

Details of tasks from Beryl Hunt 01491-872795 or Robert Watson 0118-9722737 (early evenings only).

OXFORD CONSERVATION VOLUNTEERS TASKS

See our website for details about the group & links to info about the sites: www.ocv.org.uk

DATE: Sunday 8 July

SITE: [Boundary Brook, Oxford](#)

TASK: Footpath / Construction. Today we will be erecting gates at the Boundary Brook reserve for Oxford Urban Wildlife Group; replacing the rusty old relics that provide easy access through the boundaries and footpaths of the reserve. This is also a chance to observe the progress of hedgelaying and planting projects OCV have done here in the past. For this technical construction challenge we need brains as well as brawn - so if you have either, we need you there!

BTCV GREEN GYMS at Abingdon, Bicester, Chipping Norton, Sonning Common, Wallingford.

BTCV 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

9.30 am starts

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

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

Contact: please ring BTCV on 01296 330033 before a project to let us know you're coming.

Tuesday 19 June 9.30am - 12.30pm

Entrance to Bure Park on corner of Lucerne Avenue (A)

Cow Parsley Removal. Removing the large amounts of cow parsley that have covered the bluebells we planted. Task for all abilities

CHIPPING NORTON GREEN GYM

Contact: please ring the BTCV office on 01296 330033 to let us know you're coming.

WE PROVIDE All tools, training and refreshments.

MOBILE NO. ON DAY: 07740 899 729

Wednesday 11th July 10 am – 1 pm

Car park at far end of Glyme Close, Woodstock

Meadow clearance in The Water Meadows

Clearing the water meadows of dead wood will help grazing on site. This will in turn keep himalayan balsam at bay! Toilets at pub on corner. Wellies useful

SONNING COMMON GREEN GYM

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

Saturday 7 July 9.30 - 12.30

WATERCRESS BEDS MAINTENANCE at Ewelme, jointly with Chiltern Society. Meet at road-side by the bridge. Leaders: Robert Watson and Claire Brown 0118 972 3528

WALLINGFORD GREEN GYM

Contact: Graeme Gemmill, Wallingford Green Gym co-ordinator Tel:01491 832364, Email: graeme@gemmill.name

Tuesday 10 July 10 am – 1 pm

Crossing Ridgeway/Road from Britwell Salome – Cookley Green *SU681922*
Britwell Hill. Hedge maintenance. Car pooling

BBOWT WORK PARTIES :

1. ABBEY FISHPONDS NATURE RESERVE

Regular Friday work parties 9.30 to 1.00

Irregular Saturday work parties 9.30 to 1.00.

Please contact Marjorie White for further details. Tel 01235 216428 or 01235 530174. email saveradleylakes@ntlworld.com

2. BUCKS AND OXON MID-WEEK TEAM

Every Wednesday 8.45am Near Oxford, Oxon

Bring a drink and packed lunch, wear suitable outdoor clothing, tools provided, training given. You are advised to check your Tetanus is up to date. All volunteers are covered by the Trusts insurance. Child safety legislation - children under the age of 16 years of age must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Please let the task leader know in advance if you wish to attend a work party.

Contact: Mark Vallance (Bucks) or Gavin Hageman (Oxon) at BBOWT HQ (01865) 775476

3. CS LEWIS NATURE RESERVE WORK PARTY

When: First Sunday of the Month. 10am - 4pm

This new and active group meet at the reserve on the first Sunday of every month. There's lots to be done and we welcome everyone to come along and help out. The day begins at 10am and runs until around 4pm - come for as much or little as you can.

Over the next year the work is aimed at making the reserve an easier and more enjoyable place for people to visit e.g. more seating, steps and making sure the paths are kept clear.

The nature reserve is easy to find, it is at the end of Lewis Close in Risinghurst. Bus 8a from Oxford. Don't forget to bring warm, old clothes and lunch. Please contact Rebecca Bolam on 01865 775476 or oxonwildlife@bbowt.org.uk for more info or just come along on the day.

4. DRY SANDFORD PIT NATURE RESERVE WORKING PARTY

First Sunday of every Month 10 am near Abingdon, Oxon.

Leader: Stephen Grigson. Tools and refreshments provided. No dogs. Meet: Dry Sandford Pit car park. SU 467997. Contact: Stephen Grigson (01865) 390540.

5. FRIENDS OF CHIMNEY MEADOWS VOLUNTEER GROUP

The group: An extremely friendly local group of keen volunteers with ranging experience in practical conservation work and survey work.

Meeting place: BBOWT's Chimney Meadows reserve, BBOWT barn, Chimney hamlet. You will see a wooden gate with a BBOWT trust sign on it, on your right, in the centre of the hamlet. Drive up the track and park beside the barn.

Booking is essential for all meets so the necessary quantity of tools and safety equipment can be transferred from HQ in Oxford. Please call Dr Kerry Lock (Chimney Meadows project officer) on 01367 870904.

Days and Times: The group now meets 2 Thursdays a month and one Saturday and one Sunday.

	Thursdays	Saturday	Sunday
May:	31	12	27
June:	7, 21	16	

Please bring: A drink and packed lunch, wear suitable warm and waterproof outdoor clothing, bring sturdy footwear and wellingtons.

Proposed Work: Hedge planting; Waterway management, including waterway enhancement by reprofiling and clearing accumulated sediment; Vegetation management, including removal of invasive plant species; Removal of old fencing where necessary/ Construction of fencing; Hide construction; Infrastructure installment, including gates, signage and board walk; Construction of otter holts; Survey work (optional) General notes: Tools and training are provided. You are advised to check your Tetanus is up to date. All volunteers are covered by the Trusts insurance. Child safety legislation - children under the age of 16 years of age must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

6. SUTTON COURTENAY ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTRE WORK PARTIES

Want to gain some new skills, meet new people or keep fit without going to the gym? Help us with a range of practical conservation tasks, including managing habitats on the reserve, maintaining outdoor education resources and creating a new wildlife garden. No experience is necessary; tools and training will be provided.

Friday Volunteers: Our new group meets on alternate Fridays, from 10 am – 3.30pm. Contact Linda Knight at Sutton Courtenay Environmental Education Centre on 01235 862024 for details.

Sunday Volunteers: Meet on the fourth Sunday of every month, from 10 am – 1 pm (or later if willing to stay on). Contact: Rod D'Ayala 01865 483608/ 01235 511 861 for details.

Meet at Sutton Courtenay EEC, Sutton Courtenay Road, Sutton Courtenay (just off Milton Park).
SU 501 918

7. WHITECROSS GREEN WOOD NATURE RESERVE WORK PARTY

near Murcott, Oxon

Leader: B Woodell Admission: Free. Bring lunch if staying all day. Wear tough, old clothes and gloves. Tools are provided. Leave whenever you want to. Meet: Whitecross Green Wood car park. Nearest Train Station: Bicester or Islip. SP 600150. No dogs. Possibly suitable for people with impaired mobility. Contact: B Woodell 0845 4589237 for dates.

Ss MARY & JOHN CHURCHYARD RESTORATION PROJECT

With our Breathing Places Award we hope to transform a desolate corner into an area attractive to butterflies, moths and insects. So there is new work to be done during our volunteer sessions: constructing and planting, surveying and monitoring. We meet on Wednesday evenings, 5.30 – 7.30pm and Saturday afternoons 2-4pm. Some associated training sessions will also be arranged. Contact: Ruth Conway 01865 723085

OXFORD VOLUNTEER RANGERS

OVR meet fortnightly on a Thursday to carry out practical conservation work on a number of sites owned by Oxford City Council.

All training and tools provided as well as tea and biscuits. All work at your own pace with this new and friendly group helping to maintain the wildlife sites on your doorstep.

Dress for work outside and if you have any questions call Carl on 07801625245.

5th July 2007, 09:30-15:00hrs

Lye Valley, Three steps to FENven

Back to the Fen to rake off the cuttings and if we have time do some walkway repairs

ASTON ROWANT NATIONAL NATURE RESERVE VOLUNTEER GROUP

The Reserve: 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.

Group Activities: 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 where you see a sign to "English Nature Office" 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 15years of age are covered by Natural England insurance.

Contact: Jenny Crook / Anne Barr / Mick Venters on 01844 351833

Email: jenny.crook@naturalengland.org.uk

HENLEY WILDLIFE GROUP WORK PARTIES:

(1) Mill Meadows

Wednesdays 6 June, 4 July, 1 August and 5 Sept. 9.30 a.m. to 12.30

For more information please contact Sally Rankin on 01491 578633 e-mail:

s.rankin@btinternet.com

Meet in the Mill Lane car park.

(2) Chalk Bank Work Parties

Wednesday 11 July 9.30 a.m. to 12.30

Meet by the Knappe Close entrance to the site. For more information please contact David Parry on

01491 572668 e-mail: thedavidparry@yahoo.co.uk

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.

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