

‘Forging partnerships that will create a sustainable future for nature’

Oxfordshire Nature Conservation Forum’s Weekly Environmental E-Bulletin

9 December 2010

Please feel free to copy items from this bulletin and send on to others.

[New items are highlighted in blue](#)

NOTICES

1. [Camilla and Roly’s online Farm Shop . . . is now live!](#)
2. [What is CAG Oxfordshire?](#)
3. [Countryside 2011 - 28th May to 12th June](#)
4. [New Courses in Ecological Survey Techniques at Oxford University](#)
5. [Oxford University Department For Continuing Education Short Courses 2011](#)
6. [Publication: The Flora of Oxfordshire](#)
7. [New energy/renewables resource](#)
8. [You Gen update](#)
9. [Community Grassland Management in Oxfordshire](#)
10. [Green fair- volunteers needed!](#)
11. [Be part of Britain’s biggest environmental occasion](#)
12. [Flora locale’s list of native flora suppliers](#)
13. [Growing demand for resources 'threatens EU economy'](#)
14. [Parasite Threatens Many of Britain’s Best-loved Birds](#)
15. [Blue Sky Green Space](#)
16. [Steve Backshall becomes BBOWT President](#)
17. [Campaign - Stepping stones for stag beetles](#)

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

18. [The Grantscape Community Greenspace Challenge](#)

EVENTS

19. [Make it a Green Xmas](#)
20. [Using Science to Enhance Root Function in Crops](#)
21. [Producing Wildflower Meadow Seeds For South-East England](#)
22. [Apple Tree Pruning](#)
23. [Introduction to Hedge Laying](#)

24. Making Hurdle Fence Panels
25. Basket Weaving Workshop
26. Oxfordshire Week of Waste Reduction
27. Making a Chestnut Gate Hurdle
28. Protected Species: How LPA's should discharge their legal duties
29. OxClean Spring 2011

VACANCIES/VOLUNTARY WORK

30. Receptionist and Administrative Assistant (BBOWT)
31. 2 Seasonal Wardens for West Berkshire Living Landscape

REGULAR WORK PARTIES

Details are given after Vacancies for the following groups:

ASTON ROWANT NATIONAL NATURE RESERVE VOLUNTEER GROUP

BARTON FIELDS GREEN TEAM

BARRACKS LANE COMMUNITY GARDEN

BBOWT WORK PARTIES

CUTTLE BROOK NATURE RESERVE VOLUNTEER WORK PARTIES

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

HENLEY WILDLIFE GROUP

NORTHMOOR TRUST REGULAR WORK PARTIES

OXFORD CONSERVATION VOLUNTEERS

OXFORD URBAN WILDLIFE GROUP

SHOTOVER CONSERVATION

SOUTH CHILTERN VOLUNTEER TASKS

SS MARY & JOHN CHURCHYARD RESTORATION PROJECT

WENDLEBURY WOODLAND PROJECT VOLUNTEERS

WITNEY WOODLAND VOLUNTEERS

WYCHWOOD COUNTRYSIDE ACTION TEAM AND V

NOTICES

1. CAMILLA AND ROLY'S ONLINE FARM SHOP . . . IS NOW LIVE!
You can now order all your favourite cuts of lamb either individually or as part of our special meat boxes. You can either collect your order direct from 'Northmoor Trust's Hill Farm' or we can deliver in award-winning insulated packaging made from British sheep's wool! On receipt of your order we shall contact you to arrange a convenient day to deliver your meat.

Still looking for Christmas presents? We have beautiful sheepskin rugs for sale - traditional ivory, natural or a different feel altogether with 'Teak'. Take a look!

Finally, how about treating someone to be a 'shepherd for the day'? Depending on the time of year, highlights may include helping with the newborn lambs, selecting lambs for market and having a go at working our lovely sheepdog Belle! All set in the beautiful surroundings of the Northmoor Trusts Hill Farm. If you book a voucher now, you could be helping us with our ewes who will be lambing in January, a really special time.

For more information please visit www.camillaandroy.co.uk - we look forward to hearing from you and please tell your friends and family.

2. WHAT IS CAG OXFORDSHIRE?

Community Action Groups, (CAGs) is a network of local voluntary groups in Oxfordshire. They organize events and initiatives to raise awareness and take action on climate change issues including waste reduction, promoting the 3Rs (reduce, reuse and recycle), carbon reduction, sustainable transport, and food, energy and water issues to live a more sustainable and less resource dependent life in their local community.

The CAG support team provides hands-on, day to day help and advice for groups. If you would like to find out more contact the CAG Project:

Telephone: 07793 647190

Email: simon.kenton@resourcefutures.co.uk

Visit the website: www.cagoxfordshire.org.uk to find a CAG near you.

(CAG News, winter 2010) See also items 26 and 29.

3. COUNTRYSIDE 2011 - 28TH MAY TO 12TH JUNE

Countryside 2011 is the second year of a pioneering campaign that brings together hundreds of country-based events, activities and attractions on one website, providing a one-stop-shop for visitors looking for things to do and see. The campaign aims to encourage more people to visit and enjoy the great outdoors, try something new, take up a hobby or learn a new skill. In 2010 the website and its Event Directory attracted around 38,000 visitors to the 820 events that were promoted.

It is an amazing opportunity for all attractions, event and activity organisers to benefit from a valuable free promotional campaign.

Log-on to www.countryside2011.org.uk to find out how to register, and to access all the campaign marketing materials

4. NEW COURSES IN ECOLOGICAL SURVEY TECHNIQUES AT OXFORD UNIVERSITY

Field Techniques for Surveying Vegetation - online, 5-week part-time course, starting January 2011

[http://www.conted.ox.ac.uk/courses/details.php?id=O10C552D2W&search=Enter%20search%20terms&submitbutton=Search&multisearch=single&search_type\[\]=100&search_startdate=Starting%20on%20or%20after%20%28date%29](http://www.conted.ox.ac.uk/courses/details.php?id=O10C552D2W&search=Enter%20search%20terms&submitbutton=Search&multisearch=single&search_type[]=100&search_startdate=Starting%20on%20or%20after%20%28date%29)

Field Techniques for Surveying Mammals & Reptiles - online, 5-week part-time course, starting March 2011

[http://www.conted.ox.ac.uk/courses/details.php?id=O10C554D2W&search=Enter%20search%20terms&submitbutton=Search&multisearch=single&search_type\[\]=100&search_startdate=Starting%20on%20or%20after%20%28date%29](http://www.conted.ox.ac.uk/courses/details.php?id=O10C554D2W&search=Enter%20search%20terms&submitbutton=Search&multisearch=single&search_type[]=100&search_startdate=Starting%20on%20or%20after%20%28date%29)

5. OXFORD UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT FOR CONTINUING EDUCATION SHORT COURSES 2011

The Landscapes and Habitats of Oxfordshire - 10 weeks in Oxford, starting Jan 2011

[http://www.conted.ox.ac.uk/courses/details.php?id=O10P643BIW&search=Enter%20search%20terms&submitbutton=Search&multisearch=single&search_type\[\]=400&search_startdate=Starting%20on%20or%20after%20%28date%29](http://www.conted.ox.ac.uk/courses/details.php?id=O10P643BIW&search=Enter%20search%20terms&submitbutton=Search&multisearch=single&search_type[]=400&search_startdate=Starting%20on%20or%20after%20%28date%29)

Introduction to Weather & Climate - 10 weeks in Reading, starting Jan 2011

[http://www.conted.ox.ac.uk/courses/details.php?id=R10P416BIW&search=Enter%20search%20terms&submitbutton=Search&multisearch=single&search_type\[\]=400&search_startdate=Starting%20on%20or%20after%20%28date%29](http://www.conted.ox.ac.uk/courses/details.php?id=R10P416BIW&search=Enter%20search%20terms&submitbutton=Search&multisearch=single&search_type[]=400&search_startdate=Starting%20on%20or%20after%20%28date%29)

Applying Ecology - 10 weeks in Oxford, starting April 2011

http://www.conted.ox.ac.uk/courses/details.php?id=O10P644BIW&search=applyi%20ecology&submitbutton=Search&multisearch=single&search_startdate

Further Approaches to Leadership for Climate Change and Sustainability- one day course in Oxford, Sat 22 Jan 2011

[http://www.conted.ox.ac.uk/courses/details.php?id=O10P177BIJ&search=Enter%20search%20terms&submitbutton=Search&multisearch=single&search_type\[\]=800&search_startdate=Starting%20on%20or%20after%20%28date%29](http://www.conted.ox.ac.uk/courses/details.php?id=O10P177BIJ&search=Enter%20search%20terms&submitbutton=Search&multisearch=single&search_type[]=800&search_startdate=Starting%20on%20or%20after%20%28date%29)

Transitions and Transformations for a Low Carbon Future in the UK - one day course in Oxford, Sat 05 Mar 2011

[http://www.conted.ox.ac.uk/courses/details.php?id=O10P195BIJ&search=Enter%20search%20terms&submitbutton=Search&multisearch=single&search_type\[\]=800&search_startdate=Starting%20on%20or%20after%20%28date%29](http://www.conted.ox.ac.uk/courses/details.php?id=O10P195BIJ&search=Enter%20search%20terms&submitbutton=Search&multisearch=single&search_type[]=800&search_startdate=Starting%20on%20or%20after%20%28date%29)

Oxfordshire`s Biodiversity: Has it got a future? One day course in Oxford, Sat 21 May 2011

[http://www.conted.ox.ac.uk/courses/details.php?id=O10P145BIJ&search=Enter%20search%20terms&submitbutton=Search&multisearch=single&search_type\[\]=800&search_startdate=Starting%20on%20or%20after%20%28date%29](http://www.conted.ox.ac.uk/courses/details.php?id=O10P145BIJ&search=Enter%20search%20terms&submitbutton=Search&multisearch=single&search_type[]=800&search_startdate=Starting%20on%20or%20after%20%28date%29)

6. PUBLICATION: THE FLORA OF OXFORDSHIRE

‘There remain about 100 copies of The Flora of Oxfordshire. I hope they can go to people who would make good use of them. The publishers will send them for the cost of the courier which is £10.50 for up to 8 copies, i.e. any number from one to eight will cost £10.50. I guess if you want nine it will cost £21. They would not want to send single copies, as it would be very time consuming and the publishers are not making any money on the courier charges. It would be much more expensive as well. I wondered if interested people could get together over this and order several copies so they can save money on the carriage.

I would like a donation of £5 -£10/copy sent to me and hope to raise enough for a new brushcutter for our local BBOWT conservation group. If you have any questions, please contact me : Becky Woodell becky@phonecoop.coop (The Flora was written by John Killick, Roy Perry and Stan Woodell, and published in 1998 at £45 - editor)

7. NEW ENERGY/RENEWABLES RESOURCE

For those of you considering community energy/renewables projects, this could be of interest. There is a section particularly aimed at community groups. <http://ceo.decc.gov.uk/>, described as: ‘This resource has been developed to support local authorities and community groups in their role as initiators, supporters and developers of local low carbon and renewable energy projects’.

8. YOU GEN UPDATE

A good blog about renewable energy, late November`s update features ‘things to ask your biomass boiler installer’ amongst other treasures. See it all online: <http://www.yougen.co.uk/view-news/Keeping+warm+this+winter+-+YouGen+newsletter+November+2010/>

9. COMMUNITY GRASSLAND MANAGEMENT IN OXFORDSHIRE

If you have already replied to our questionnaire on grassland management please ignore this.

There is general agreement that many grassland sites are not best managed for biodiversity because (due to lack of time and cost) they are not grazed or cut for

hay. This is not the fault of the groups managing the sites but rather that some groups don't have the resources that they need. We would like to be able to fund ways to support these groups, perhaps by a 'flying flock of sheep' and/ or some machinery such as a Combi-collector that groups can borrow to cut and collect the grass.

If your group is managing any grassland, including rides within woodland areas, it would be useful to know how you are coping with the work involved. If you have not already answered our questionnaire do please contact cynth@oncf.org.uk for a copy.

10. GREEN FAIR- VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Sage is running a stall once again at the Green Fair on Saturday 11 December at Oxford Town Hall.

So we will need volunteers to man the stall. We start setting up just after 9.00am, and then run to about 5.00pm when we will have closed up and departed! So if you are able to help, even for an hour or so let me know your times and I will construct a rota!

Hope to hear from you soon. Martin Hodson [martin@hodsons.org]

11. BE PART OF BRITAIN'S BIGGEST ENVIRONMENTAL OCCASION

On 21-27 March 2011, thousands of organisations all over the UK will promote action on climate change. Please encourage your workplace, community or school to run events or activities for Climate Week.

What you can do now:

- Ask your organisation to back Climate Week - and let us know.
- Publicise it, so others hear about it in time to plan their own activities.
- Register for the Climate Week Challenge - teams in schools and workplaces take part on 21 March.
- Enter the Climate Awards, for innovation or action in different sectors.
- Plan an activity for the week - such as a talk, workshop, press event, exhibition or competition.

Get in touch with us at info@climateweek.com or on 020 3397 2601.

12. FLORA LOCALE'S LIST OF NATIVE FLORA SUPPLIERS

Flora locale's list of native flora suppliers is a unique facility offering a contact point between companies selling plants or seed and individuals wishing to purchase appropriate planting stock for restoration projects. During 2011 we will be improving the functionality of this service. Further details will be provided in the Spring.

Visit www.floralocale.org

13. GROWING DEMAND FOR RESOURCES 'THREATENS EU ECONOMY'

By Mark Kinver Science and environment reporter, BBC News

Agriculture is a key part of the EU's economy, with about half of Europe's land being farmed. The growing global demand for natural resources risks undermining Europe's economy, a report has warned.

See <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-11865650> for the full story.

14. PARASITE THREATENS MANY OF BRITAIN'S BEST-LOVED BIRDS

Greenfinch populations in central England dropped by a third within a year of the emergence of a new disease, reports a newly published study.

Scientists from the Garden Bird Health initiative (GBHi) discovered that trichomonosis, an emerging infectious disease of garden birds led to dramatic declines in greenfinch populations across much of England. Chaffinch populations fell by up to 20%. Most birds died in the summer and autumn months, and outbreaks have continued each year since its emergence in 2005.

The study used data from public observation and a volunteer survey, plus post mortem examination of hundreds of birds, collected from gardens. Becki Lawson, joint lead author, said "This citizen science project highlights the valuable role that volunteers can play in helping us learn more about wildlife diseases, even by just watching birds in their gardens for a couple of hours each week".

Trichomonosis is well known in doves and pigeons but appears to have jumped the species barrier in 2005. James Kirkwood, founder of the Garden Bird Health initiative said "Health surveillance of British wildlife species is crucial for us to recognize new and emerging disease threats that not only adversely affect the welfare of individual animals, but have the potential to impact entire populations." The GBHi team is investigating factors underlying the emergence of this disease. Members of the public can assist by reporting cases of disease or mortality in their garden birds -

<http://www.rspb.org.uk/advice/helpingbirds/health/sickbirds/greenfinches.asp>
(precis'd from Biodiversity News, Autumn 2010 edition)

15. BLUE SKY GREEN SPACE

Published by the GreenLINK coalition, collates the latest and most persuasive data on the positive influence of green spaces. The document outlines the many benefits that a diverse range of quality green spaces bring, covering health, communities, economic and environmental value. The full collaborative document is currently available in draft form online, where comment and contribution is encouraged from all. An executive summary of the report was presented to

ministers in October as part of GreenLINK's advocacy strategy.
http://www.green-space.org.uk/resources/greenLINK/?dm_i=JEZ,B0YJ,2YZLID,UNFO,1

16. STEVE BACKSHALL BECOMES BBOWT PRESIDENT

At this year's AGM the membership elected Steve Backshall, naturalist, writer and television presenter, as BBOWT's new President. www.bbowt.org.uk

17. CAMPAIGN - STEPPING STONES FOR STAG BEETLES

People's Trust for Endangered Species have a campaign to create suitable habitat for the charismatic but threatened stag beetle. As you may know, dead and decaying wood is the ideal home for stag beetles and many other insects. Stag beetles have a long life cycle - their larvae live for up to 7 years in decaying wood such as log piles and tree stumps where they feed on the rotten timber, before emerging as beetles to breed during their short spell as adults. These insects don't travel very far and so the number found in an area depends on the availability of habitat at the time that the female laid her eggs several years earlier. An adult female stag beetle lays her eggs where she emerges if there is sufficient dead wood, but otherwise she needs to find somewhere else. Our general tendency to tidy the green spaces around us can therefore threaten these vulnerable insects, as places for them to shelter are lost or become isolated.

A simple and effective way of helping stag beetles is to make sure that they have a good supply of dead wood and can travel around easily by leaving tree stumps in situ or creating 'stepping stones' by partially burying a vertical log pile. The easy-to-follow instructions for creating 'Stepping Stones for Stag Beetles' can make a great community activity for young people or interested groups of adults. Burying a vertical log pile is something that anyone can do to help increase breeding sites for stag beetles; even a single log can provide shelter and food.

Download the instructions at www.ptes.org/stagbeetles and register your log pile.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

18. THE GRANTScape COMMUNITY GREENSPACE CHALLENGE

The GrantScape Community Greenspace Challenge is c. £500,000 grant programme designed to support local communities in creating enjoyable new outdoor greenspaces, including by transforming existing unloved areas. It is specifically designed to benefit the environment both for people and for wildlife, supporting people's health, well-being and access to nature.

GrantScape will prioritise applications received from groups where the initial idea has come from, and the project's design has been developed within, their local community.

Each project must focus on a single site and must be within 10 miles of a licensed landfill site

Projects must comply with the requirements of the Landfill Communities Fund. If you are

in any doubt whether your project meets these requirements, please contact GrantScape.

Grants will be available for amounts between £20,000 and £75,000

There is no requirement for match funding, nor for a Contributing Third Party (CTP) donation

Grants will be awarded for a maximum of 18 months from the point that contracts are signed

Eligible Applicants are:

Properly constituted local community and voluntary groups, including village hall management committees, playing field associations and “friends of” groups

Parish and town councils

Web-site: www.grantscape.org.uk

Telephone: 01908 247630

EVENTS

19. Saturday 11 December

10.30 am -12.30 pm

MAKE IT A GREEN XMAS

Come to the Garden to collect natural treasures to turn into beautiful decorations.

Take some home and leave some on our tree. Activity free with entry to the Garden, adults £3.50, children free.

University of Oxford Botanic Garden, Rose Lane, Oxford, OX1 4AZ, 01865 286690

www.botanic-garden.ox.ac.uk postmaster@obg.ox.ac.uk

20. Monday 13 December

USING SCIENCE TO ENHANCE ROOT FUNCTION IN CROPS

Enhancing root function offers great promise in the development of sustainable crops. This lecture by Prof. Liam Dolan will highlight the critical role played by roots in nutrient uptake and review the most recent scientific breakthroughs in this area. The future application of technologies based on these discoveries will be central to enhancing crop productivity in the forthcoming agricultural revolution.

In the Daubeny Lecture Theatre at the front of the Botanic Garden, Oxford.

Tickets cost £7.00 www.botanic-garden.ox.ac.uk (please note that no refreshments are served at these lectures)

21. Thursday 16 December 7.30 pm
PRODUCING WILDFLOWER MEADOW SEEDS FOR SOUTH-EAST ENGLAND
Join the Kirtlington Wildlife and Conservation Society and the Kirtlington Garden Club for their joint Christmas meeting, where speaker Martin Parham of Herbiseed will be talking about 'local seeds for local habitats'.
In Kirtlington Village Hall, OX5 3HJ. £2 contribution from visitors towards mulled wine and mince pies.
Contact: Christine Marsh [CM@hda-enviro.co.uk]

22. Saturday 8 January 10 am - 4 pm
APPLE TREE PRUNING
Keep your apple trees looking healthy and productive! Gain practical experience in the Trust's own orchard. Please wear warm clothes and appropriate footwear for climbing ladders. Please bring secateurs and a pruning saw if you have them.
Adults £50 | Friends £40
Booking required. 01865 407792 admin@northmoortrust.co.uk
www.northmoortrust.co.uk

23. Saturday/Sunday 15/16 January 9.30 am - 4 pm
INTRODUCTION TO HEDGE LAYING
A two-day hands on course getting to grips with the traditional skill of hedge laying. All tools and equipment provided, but sturdy boots and appropriate clothes are required.
Adults £75 | Friends £60
Booking required. 01865 407792 admin@northmoortrust.co.uk
www.northmoortrust.co.uk

24. Saturday 15 January 10 am - 4 pm
MAKING HURDLE FENCE PANELS
Join hurdle maker Dave Seabourne for this hurdle-making course. Using hazel rods participants will learn the art of making their own hazel hurdle panels including how to split hazel and weave it into panels.
At the Harcourt Arboretum, Nuneham Courtenay. Tickets cost £60 each, including all materials and a sandwich lunch.
<http://www.botanic-garden.ox.ac.uk/Education/obg-education-public-1.html> (page 3)

25. Sunday 16 January 10 am - 4 pm
BASKET WEAVING WORKSHOP
Come and weave your own truly unique basket. Please bring secateurs and a penknife if you have them.

Adults £50 | Friends £40

Booking required. 01865 407792 admin@northmoortrust.co.uk

www.northmoortrust.co.uk

26. Saturday 22 to Saturday 29 January 2011

OXFORDSHIRE WEEK OF WASTE REDUCTION

It is not too late to take part in Oxfordshire's Week of Waste Reduction. Many CAGs have already booked their events and will be joining the activities planned for the week. January is a time for New Year's resolutions and Christmas can result in lots of unwanted items, so this week is an ideal time to show others how to cut their carbon footprint by reducing needless waste.

This event is for everyone, new or existing groups, not just CAGs and not just swap shops! All groups can get involved, thinking of new ways to reduce. What about a garment refashioning workshop, or back to basics sewing lessons? Or how about providing information on smart shopping or an event to get your bike in tip top condition for the spring?

Please get in touch with frances.buckel@resourcefutures.co.uk or telephone 07903 037290 with details of your event or for ideas.

Keep on home composting!

(CAG News, winter 2010)

27. Saturday 5 February

10 am - 4pm

MAKING A CHESTNUT GATE HURDLE

This course with Dave Seabourne is for anyone interested in making chestnut gate hurdles. You will learn the skills of constructing chestnut gate hurdles by making small hurdle to take home. You can then apply the techniques to construct your own gate hurdle. The day will include how to select materials, cleave and shave the chestnut to make parts of the hurdle, drill the holes, point the heads and chamfer the tops. You will then shape the tenons, fix the rails and braces and complete the hurdle. This is a practical course using hand tools and takes place outdoors.

At the Harcourt Arboretum, Nuneham Courtenay. Tickets cost £60.00 each, including all materials and a sandwich lunch.

<http://www.botanic-garden.ox.ac.uk/Education/obg-education-public-1.html> (page 3)

28. Thursday 17 February

10 am - 3.20 pm

PROTECTED SPECIES: HOW LPA'S SHOULD DISCHARGE THEIR LEGAL DUTIES

At the Cherwell District Council Offices in Bodicote near Banbury.

A training session given by one of the UK's leading environmental lawyers specialising in nature conservation law, which has been designed specifically for planning officers and other professionals who deal with protected species issues on a regular basis. Recent developments in legislation and case law, as well as Natural England's new policy in this region to provide less advice on protected species means that planning authorities must rely more on their own judgement with regards to the impact of planning applications on protected species. The comprehensive course will cover:

- An overview of conservation law and how it has changed with recent case law in 2009 (the High Court case Woolley judgement) and 2010 (the Morge Court of Appeal case).
- How the European protected species legislation relates to planning and what this means in terms of the legal duty of LPA's.
- How to discharge those legal duties and make robust ('non-judicially reviewable') planning decisions.

This training may also count towards your Continued Professional Development for the RTPI.

£35 per person (or £95 for three delegates per organisation), which includes lunch. If you would like to attend, please email sarah.postlethwaite@oxfordshire.gov.uk

29. Friday 4 and Saturday 5 March
OXCLEAN SPRING 2011

OxClean is actively seeking community groups, businesses, schools and colleges to take part in Spring Clean 2011. By taking part people will help make the city cleaner than ever - and help to raise public awareness that a cleaner Oxford is more pleasant place to be! Please report any "grot spots" to the organisers as there are a number of groups who like to tackle these, wherever they are in Oxford. For more information: www.oxclean.org.uk
(CAG News, winter 2010)

VACANCIES/VOLUNTARY WORK

30. RECEPTIONIST AND ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT (BBOWT)

Salary: £13,982 - £14,464 per annum

1-year fixed-term contract. Full time

Based at the Trust head office in Littlemore, Oxford

The Berks, Bucks & Oxon Wildlife Trust is a membership-based voluntary organisation, managing 80 nature reserves, influencing land management across the 3 counties and actively working to educate and encourage all sectors of the community to care for local wildlife.

We are looking for someone to provide administrative support and a friendly and efficient front of house reception service with a January 2011 start date. The postholder will have demonstrable customer service skills, a methodical and accurate approach to administration and the ability to use MS word, Excel and Outlook packages.

For full details on how to apply for the post, please phone 01865 775476 or email jobs@bbowt.org.uk. CVs will not be accepted. Please note that only successful applicants will be notified. The closing date for applications is 12 noon on Monday 13 December. Interviews will be held at The Lodge on Thursday 16 December.

BBOWT, 1 Armstrong Road, Littlemore, Oxford, Oxon OX4 4XT
Registered Charity No. 204330 www.bbowt.org.uk

31. 2 SEASONAL WARDENS FOR WEST BERKSHIRE LIVING LANDSCAPE

Salary: £10 per hour

30 hours per week working early mornings, evenings and weekends

26 week fixed term contract (14 February to 12 August 2011)

Based at Greenham Common, Newbury

The West Berkshire Living Landscape is an exciting, ambitious long-term project, covering 2,700 hectares of land rich with wildlife and history on the edge of Newbury and Thatcham. The project is a BBOWT initiative delivered in partnership with West Berkshire Council.

The main purpose of these posts is to reduce the disturbance to ground-nesting birds during the nesting season on Greenham and Crookham Commons and Bowdown Woods.

We are looking for people who are excellent communicators, have a good knowledge of wildlife and conservation, can be flexible about their working hours and would enjoy spending all their time outside walking around the heathland of the Commons.

For full details on how to apply for the post, please download the application pack below, phone 01865 775476 or email jobs@bbowt.org.uk. CVs will not be accepted. Please note that only successful applicants will be notified.

The closing date for applications is 5pm Wednesday 8 December. Interviews will be held at Greenham Business Park on Monday 10 January 2011.

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. 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!

We also need helpers for public events and school group visits.

When: Regular group meets every Monday from 9.00am - however long you want to stay, usually up until around 4.30pm. School visits and events dates are variable.

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.

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.

Practical conservation volunteering - Bob Silverwood

robert.silverwood@naturalengland.org.uk

Education and Events volunteering - Jenny Crook

Jenny.crook@naturalengland.org.uk

BARTON FIELDS GREEN TEAM, Abingdon

Work parties autumn 2010:

Wednesday, 6th Oct, 9:30 am, Barton Lane opposite Sophos. Dig-out ponds to increase their depth (task depends on prior rainfall)

Saturday, 16th Oct, 9:30 am, Crabtree Place nr. Abbey Centre, Join our fungus foray covering the wildflower meadow, willow carr area and the riverside wood

Wednesday, 27th Oct, 9:30 am, Barton Lane opposite Sophos, Continue digging-out of ponds (weather dependent)

Saturday, 6th Nov, 9:30 am, Crabtree Place nr. Abbey Centre , Lop sycamore in field and low branches in shrub belt. Remove remaining tree-guards & mats.

Wednesday, 17th Nov, 9:30 am, Barton Lane opposite Sophos, Repair dam across ditch to increase pond depth

Saturday, 27th Nov, 9:30 am, Crabtree Place nr. Abbey Centre, Strim and slash in shrub belt and bramble area

Wednesday, 8th Dec, 9:30 am, Crabtree Place nr. Abbey Centre, Strim and slash nettles in willow carr area

All are welcome to join us. Tools provided. Wear old clothing and wellies or stout shoes. Alternative tasks such as litter-picking always available. Refreshments provided. Tasks may change

Contact: David on 01235 529151

BARRACKS LANE COMMUNITY GARDEN PROJECT

See website - www.barrackslanegarden.org.uk - for full details

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: office at 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: Helen d'Ayala at the Oxford office on 01865 775475.

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: Fiona McNally, E: fionamcnally@bbowt.org.uk or 01865 788309

RUSHBEDS WOOD/LAPLAND FARM.

First Sunday of every month Sept through March. Meet 10am, 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

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

BTCV GREEN GYMS

Green Gym is a unique scheme, established over 10 years ago, which helps people become physically and mentally healthier by taking part in practical nature conservation activities to improve their local environment. Everyone is welcome to join in, with a range of tasks to suit most people's fitness.

N.B. For all tasks wear sturdy boots and old clothes, bring waterproofs if wet.
For more information, see the website www.btcv.org/greengym or call Nina Sperinck 01296 330033

The Oxfordshire Green Gyms are now all run by volunteers and are based at Abingdon, Bicester, Chipping Norton, Sonning Common and Wallingford. For contact details scroll down to the Regular Work Parties section, below Vacancies.

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

WOODCHIP GREEN GYM

We carry out practical conservation every Wednesday morning 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

WEBSITE: www.woodchipgreengym.org.uk

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: jenniferbrooker777@btinternet.com

Website: www.wallingfordgreengym.org.uk

HENLEY WILDLIFE GROUP WORK PARTIES:

Work parties are both social and recreational. Hand tools only are used. We meet at 09.30 and finish about 12.30. There are two sites:

Mill Meadows: maintenance of ponds, stream and wildlife areas. First Wednesday of each month. October 6, November 3, December 1, not January, February 2, March 2. Meet in the car park of the River & Rowing Museum.

Chalk Bank: maintenance of woodland, grassland and chalk bank areas. Meet behind Knappe Close (SU 75258194). November 10, March 09.

Meet in the River and Rowing Museum car park. For more information please contact Sally Rankin, Home 01491 578633, Mobile 07941 207687.

NORTHMOOR TRUST REGULAR WORK PARTIES

EVERY FRIDAY AND FIRST SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH

Join our friendly team to help out with a variety of practical tasks across our estate at Little Wittenham and on the sites we manage; Wallingford Castle Meadows, Riverside Meadows in Crowmarsh Gifford, Mowbray Fields in Didcot and Radley Lakes near Abingdon.

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.

1. Friday group meet every week at 9.00am at Hill Farm, Little Wittenham.
2. Saturday group meet at 10am on the 1st Saturday of every month- please see website www.northmoortrust.co.uk for details of forthcoming tasks and locations.

Contact Alison Vallance on 07982 059645 or alison.vallance@northmoortrust.co.uk for more info.

3. Thrupp Lake Work Parties

The Northmoor Trust's next Work Party is on Friday 28th May 2010

Meet outside gate at Sandles building at 10.00. Or on site from 10.00am until 3.00pm - you can come for an hour or more, or the whole day if you wish.

Tools will be provided but please wear appropriate clothing and bring a packed lunch if you would like to stay for the whole day.

Unfortunately, there are currently no toilet facilities at Thrupp Lake.

Contact Melati Granucci with any questions:

Melati.Granucci@northmoortrust.co.uk

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 and Wednesday evenings 5.30-7.30pm.

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

near Bicester.

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

8th Season of the regeneration of a remnant of a hazel copse: We will be coppicing hazel: sorting into useable materials for bean pole bundles & pea stick bundles, stakes & binders for fencing & repairing our fencing.

Tools and drinks supplied. Please bring your own gloves.

Volunteers will start the 8th season on Thursdays from 11/11/10 until 09/12/10 and Sundays from 14/11/10 to 12/12/10 WORKING TIMES: 10.00-13.00
Contacts: Mike Pearce (Wendlebury) Tel. 01869 243967 mike@systemseed.co.uk & Alan Peck (Chesterton) Tel. 01869 244256 alan@chesterton1.plus.com
See www.wendlebury.org.uk for a 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 01865 815423 or email Liz Brandom on liz.brandon@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 01865 815423 or email jane.bowley@oxfordshire.gov.uk. Or look at our website <http://www.wychwoodproject.org/wychwoodv>

To unsubscribe from this newsletter simply reply to this email, putting 'unsubscribe please' in the subject line