



NORSEY WOOD SOCIETY Summer 2011 Newsletter Issue 134

EDITORIAL

This is an emergency edition as owing to late production problems, we are unable to produce the newsletter that had been planned. We apologise for this and trust that you will understand. We have started to distribute this Newsletter via email when requested, if you would prefer to receive it that way please email norsey1@hotmail.co.uk.

The **SUMMER TALK** will be held in Norsey Wood at the Education Centre on Monday 27th June at 7.45pm. Our speaker is David Williams, Press and Publicity Officer of the Essex branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England. His talk is entitled 'Look What's Happening Around Us!'.

RANGER'S REPORT **Chris Huggins**

After a more short-lived than usual bluebell season, with a greatly increased number of visitors, things have quietened down a bit in the wood. However the reduced number of *Homo sapiens* is not reflected in the activity levels of other species. Many of the regular late spring flowers are now coming into bloom and the young of many of the breeding birds are now emerging from their nests. Many of you will have noticed young Starlings in your gardens recently, and this afternoon I witnessed a flock of young Blue Tits on the branch of a large Oak near the recently coppiced area. However, of concern this week was the number of dead broods of Blue Tits discovered in the Dormouse nesting boxes during the first Dormouse monitoring session of the year. Whether this is down to the recent drought causing a decline in the number of caterpillars, or maybe increased predation of parents for some reason is not clear. Maybe some research will be done by one of the bird organisations.



One Dormouse and an additional three unoccupied nests were discovered, which is a reasonable start to the season here I think, with the hope that numbers will rise as the summer progresses.

I also conducted a survey of next year's proposed coppice coupe for potential bat roosting opportunities. All British bat species are protected, so we have a duty to ensure that we do not denude the wood of possible roosting sites. This proved quite interesting as there were a number of trees with holes, cracks and damage of various types that could provide opportunities. Ideally the survey should be done before the trees are in leaf as visibility of tree features is better. However, leaving it until now does mean that I was able to detect two Greater Spotted Woodpecker nests by following the sound of the calling young. This not only gives an opportunity to locate the birds, but, as bats are known to nest in old woodpecker holes, also gives information about possible roosts. Luckily, most of the roosting opportunities are likely to be retained anyway. However, it's interesting to have an idea of where the bats might be, especially as I intend to follow up with an activity survey of the area with a bat detector later in the summer.

On a different note, I showed a potential grazer round Norsey Meadow last week, and he seemed very interested in putting cows in there. Inevitably there is some paperwork to be sorted out, but I'm hoping that cows will arrive in the next few weeks. Watch this space. Or better still, watch the space adjacent to Norsey Close!

Norsey Woodland Crafts Simon Stock

It has been an exceptionally nice start to Spring. Bank holiday weekends and sunshine combined with Bluebells have brought people to Norsey Wood in droves and have meant that a lot more people are aware of the sustainable coppice crafts that are produced in the woodyard.

The demand for BBQ charcoal so early in the season has caught me out slightly and I am just planning my third charcoal burn this month. Long may this nice weather continue.

I am still taking bulk firewood orders for winter 2011/12. Orders should be placed as soon as possible as demand is increasing. I have also opened the order book for firewood for winter 2012/13.

The **main opening times** for the yard are Sundays 9.00am to 3.30pm when all current products are on display. For week day opening times, to make an enquiry or place an order please feel free to contact me on 07884 171147 or via e-mail at

norsey.woodland.crafts@blueyonder.co.uk

On the following days, the yard will be closed so that I can attend craft events.

11th June - Holiday , 18th September – Henham Hall steam rally

Events Enquiries to 01277 624553 or 01268 550088

NORSEY WOOD (meet at the Information Centre)

Dormouse monitoring (0900-1200 approx): 22nd June, 26th July, 24th August, 20th Sept, 26th Oct.

Creatures of the Night: 1st Sept. (1930-2200)

Fungus Foray: 29th Oct (1030-1230)

MILL MEADOWS (meet at Scout hut in Greens Farm Lane)

Conservation Work Party (1030-1230): 9th July, 10th Sept, 8th October.

Minibeast Safari : 16th July (1030-1230)

Creatures of the Night (Bats and Moths): 25th August (1945-2200)

Fungus Foray: 5th Nov. (1030-1230)

QUEENS PARK (meet at the car park off Rosebay Avenue)

Conservation Work Party (1030-1230): 25th June, 23th July, 27th August, 24th Sept, 22nd Oct

Contacts

COUNTRYSIDE SERVICES

Norsey Wood Ranger 01277 624553 (If urgent 01268 550088)

Countryside Services (BBC) 01268 550088 www.basildon.gov.uk

NORSEY WOOD SOCIETY

Chairman: Cliff Mullett 17 Lilford Road (632353)
cliffmull@btopenworld.com

Secretary: Roy Mahoney 10 Jacqueline Gdns (653308)
rsmahoney@btinternet.com

Treasurer: Paul Hudson 5 Cavell Road (656047)
paul_hudson@yahoo.co.uk

Membership Secretary: Ken Betson 51 Bellevue Road (622479)

Newsletter Editor: Tony Mullord 3 Kensington Gdns (623327)
drollum1@hotmail.co.uk

Production: Kevin Goldsmith 27 Jacqueline Gdns (650932)
Kevin-goldsmith@pringle-brandon.co.uk