



Wildspace!

News from Parndon Wood Nature Reserve

March 2010

e-news

Welcome to the March edition of Wildspace E-News, the monthly newsletter that keeps you in touch with all the activities and news from across Harlow Council's Nature Reserves and Wildlife Sites.

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Picture of the Month



Weasel (*Mustela nivalis*)

Widespread throughout Britain, weasels are our smallest and probably most numerous carnivores. An adult male weasel is less than 24cm from nose to tail-tip, females are even smaller.

They are found in a wide range of habitats, which include urban areas, lowland pasture and woodland, marshes and moors.

Weasels hunt small rodents and their numbers depend on the abundance of their prey.

Greenteam Volunteers

On Wednesday 17th February the Greenteam held a task on Marshgate Springs which included removing willow trees that were encroaching onto the marshy areas of the site.



Volunteers at work

As a result of the Greenteams work an excavator was able to get onto the site all last week and create 6 new ponds surrounded by reedbed creating a valuable habitat for wildfowl and species such as the Bittern (*Botaurus stellaris*).

The increased areas of standing water should also be of benefit to species of bats and invertebrates.



Sinking digger!

Greenteam Tasks

February-March 2010

We will be meeting in late February to discuss a task programme for the summer/ autumn 2010.

Mar 3rd – Public Footpath clearance

Mar 17th – Latton Woods: pollard creation and scrub clearance

Apr 7th – Parndon Moat Marsh: cut meadows and sedges

For more information contact:
glenn.mulleady@harlow.gov.uk
or 01279 430005

International Year of Biodiversity 2010

Farms conserving wildlife

Conservation Grade farmers agree to use 10% of their land to develop habitats for wildlife in return for a premium price for their crops.

This land may be used to plant wildflowers for pollinating insects, grow plants that provide seeds for birds to eat in winter, or grow grasses for spiders, beetles and small mammals to live in.

Farmers may also establish specific wildlife habitats such as hedges, ponds or ditches.



Wildflower verge

Regular assessments of the farms involved show that these measures have led to a significant increase in the numbers of birds, butterflies, bumblebees and small mammals.



Barn Owl box

Between 1999 and 2003 at the pilot Phase Two Conservation Grade farm (Manor Farm, Yorkshire), the Government's Centre for Ecology and Hydrology noted a 41% increase in birds, an eightfold increase in butterflies (with 22 species recorded overall), a thirteenfold increase in bumblebees, and a thirtyfold increase in small mammals such as water voles within certain habitats on the farm.

Further information:

www.biodiversityislife.net

forest fantasia



Parndon Wood
Sunday 14th March
1pm-3pm

Mothers Day Crafts

Take Mum for a stroll around your local woodland this Mothers Day. Plus children get the chance to make beautiful natural gifts for Mum too.

Parndon Wood
Sunday 4th April
11am-3pm

The Easter bunny needs your help!

The magical egg of Parndon Wood has been stolen! Search the woodland for egg-clues which will help you to discover where the magical egg has been hidden. With a choccy treat for all successful adventurers!



Booking Essential!

For more information or to book please call 01279 430005 or email becky.naman@harlow.gov.uk

Useful Links

- ❑ www.ancient-tree-hunt.org.uk to see details of the nationwide search for veteran trees.
- ❑ www.uksafari.com information on UK wildlife and identification charts.
- ❑ www.favouritetrees.com for information on The Epping Forest District search for veteran trees
- ❑ www.naturegrid.org.uk for information on biodiversity resources for teachers.
- ❑ www.londoncanals.co.uk for information on Londons canals!
- ❑ www.woodland-trust.org.uk for information on woodlands nationwide.
- ❑ www.enaturenotes.org.uk to create your own nature diary.
- ❑ www.naturedetectives.org.uk for childrens wildlife sheets and activities.
- ❑ www.foresteducation.org.uk for details of forest education schemes nationwide.
- ❑ www.efct.info details of a local Epping Forest Conservation Charity organising walks and events.
- ❑ www.harlowwildlife.org.uk for information on Harlow Conservation Volunteers and their work in the Town.
- ❑ www.harlowbees.co.uk for information on bees and bee keeping in Harlow

Contact Us

If you would like to find out more information, book a place on any of our events or have ideas and suggestions for our wildlife sites please contact us at:

Parndon Wood Nature Reserve
Parndon Wood Road
Harlow, Essex
CM19 4SF

Telephone: (01279) 430005

Email Biodiversity Officer :
glenn.mulleady@harlow.gov.uk

Website: www.harlow.gov.uk

Opening Times

Parndon Wood Winter opening hours are as follows from 1st October 2009-31st March 2010:

Sundays 11am-4pm

Parndon Wood opening hours from 1st April-30th September 2010:

Saturdays 9am-6pm

Sundays 9am-6pm

Tuesdays 7-9pm

Other times can be arranged by appointment for community groups and school visits.

March Events

Dusk Walk

Tuesday 2nd March, 4.45pm-5.45pm

Parndon Wood Nature Reserve

During Nature Club there will be an exciting dusk-walk to explore the woodland and its creatures that come out at dusk.

Acorn Group

Saturday 13th March, 9am-12pm

Parndon Wood Nature Reserve

Young people are invited to join staff at Parndon Wood to help carry out conservation work and discover more about what wildlife lives in the woods (suitable for 12-16 year olds).

Mothers Day Crafts

Sunday 14th March, 1pm-3pm

Parndon Wood Nature Reserve

Take Mum for a stroll around your local woodland this Mothers Day. Plus children get the chance to make beautiful natural gifts for Mum too.

Spring Spotters Walk

Sunday 28th March, 1pm-2pm

Parndon Wood Nature Reserve

Search the woodland for the first signs of Spring on this special walk. Will you be the first to find a tadpole or spot a nesting bird?!

For further information and to book on events please contact glenn.mulleady@harlow.gov.uk or view www.harlow.gov.uk

Harlow Biodiversity Partnership

Harlow Biodiversity partnership is an independent group working to conserve Harlow's biodiversity and facilitated by Harlow Council. Anyone is welcome to attend the meetings of the group, either as an individual or as a representative of a community organization or local business.

Our aim is to make a positive contribution to the conservation of our natural world and its biodiversity by sharing information and ideas. We take part in the Essex Biodiversity Action Plan process, promote participation in practical nature conservation projects, and guide Harlow Council policies.

How can I get involved?

Harlow Biodiversity Partnership hold meetings three times a year at 7.00pm in the Conservation Centre at Parndon Wood Nature Reserve. Please contact Darren Fazackerley, the Landscape & Biodiversity Manager, at Parndon Wood on 01279 430005 or email: wildspace@harlow.gov.uk

We hope that you will be able to come and bring your ideas to the Forum meeting. Please tell anyone else who you know who may wish to come along too.

You can also e-mail the Chair, Colin Lincoln at wildspace@harlow.gov.uk or at colincoln@talktalk.net

The next meeting will take place at Parndon Wood Nature Reserve at 7.00pm on Tuesday 9th March and all are very welcome.

Details of the Essex Biodiversity Action Plan can be found on <http://www.essexbiodiversity.org.uk/>



March 2010

Parndon Wood open Sundays 11am-4pm
Nature Club 3.45-5.45 Term Time only

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
1	2 Dusk Walk 4.45-5.45pm	3 Greenteam 10am-3pm	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13 Acorn Group 9am-12pm	14 Mothers Day Crafts 1-3pm
15	16	17 Greenteam 10am-3pm	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28 Spring Spotters Walk 1-2pm
29	30	31				