



PORTAL WOODLANDS CONSERVATION GROUP

Newsletter: Autumn 2008

www.martlesham.org.uk/portalwoodlandsgroup

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Last month there was the sound of more voices in our woodland, as the children enjoyed their summer holiday. The wood is always a wonderful venue for a picnic or that stroll with the dog. (Always remembering to take any litter home of course.) Young and old alike are appreciating the nature around them as they wander through our wonderful wood. The sound of the woodpecker or the scurrying of a squirrel in the leaves as it retreats up a tree can be heard. The leaves are beginning to change as the cooler weather approaches. The wood is an increasing habitat for wildlife, with the discovery of great crested newts in the pond, and during our annual glow worm survey we found 65 females and 2 males. (Hiding again, they will do anything to avoid the washing up!)

With this habitat in mind, may we remind everyone, that permission should be sort, before any wood is taken from the woodland, or indeed before any overhanging branches are chopped off. This is due to the woodland having a tree preservation order on it and we are therefore answerable to the Suffolk Coastal District Council.

Airfield Artefacts:

The tops of the AVGAS fuel tanks are in the process of being painted and the area around them has been grassed. Logs have been placed to provide a support structure for the revetment trenches and work is continuing on their maintenance. The weather has at last been suitable to reconstruct the gate post for Peter's Gates and we look forward to fitting these soon.

New Pathways Development Project

We have created a plan to enhance the pathways around the woodland. The goal will be to ensure that the main path surfaces are suitably surfaced and to create new areas for wildlife along the route, including that planting of native flowers, shrubs and trees. Additional seating will be provided in selected locations to enhance visitors' enjoyment.

Nature Watch Club

The Club now has 36 members and has proved very popular with local children. They have studied a number of wildlife topics. This included getting up close and personal with "Bobby the bat". Bobby became a well loved celebrity when he was rescued by Duncan and nursed back to health. The children have had fun identifying minibeasts, building a tawny owl box and discovering about dragonflies, butterflies and birds of prey. During August we also had a very successful evening hunting for moths and bats.

The Nature Watch Club was the focus of our entry into Anglia in Bloom this year. Thanks to Nature Watch member Gemma Cook for helping to impress the Judges.

The Group received a kind donation from Robert Owens, in memory of his late father, David. Some of the money was spent on purchasing pond dipping nets for the Group.

Bobby the Bat...



The Group has been busy over the past few months clearing the paths. We had some help from one of the local Cub packs, who enjoyed bashing away nettles. Well done lads. The Brownies too have visited and did some pond dipping. (More of a sedate affair!)

Some wild flowers have been planted and we continue the work to thin out some trees, creating new wildlife habits from the branches and twigs.