



PORTAL WOODLANDS CONSERVATION GROUP

Newsletter: Summer 2009

www.martlesham.org.uk/portalwoodlandsgroup

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We are nearing the summer now, with spring flourishing and winter but a distant memory. Although winter in the woods is never without event. The group were busy, clearing areas and maintaining paths. Always kept going by the knowledge of a yummy cake at break time! During the winter the wood wears a completely different cloak. The bareness of the trees allows you to peep up to the tops and see more creatures going about their business, hurrying, scurrying trying to keep warm. A dusting of snow turns it into a wonderland with little tracks visible indicating our little friend's activities on the ground. How different each season makes our wood appear. Spring, is the time for colour and new song. The glint of yellow in the earlier months as the sun catches the colour of the daffodils, then the vibrant blue of the bluebells. The smell of new growth, especially after an April shower. The songs of the birds. Oh it is so wonderful; ensure you experience all of these things. Make time for that wander through the woods..... enjoy. ☺

Nature Watch Club

The club now has 36 members and has proved very popular with local children. The children have been busy working towards their bronze award. This award is part of the RSPB award scheme. They have helped build habitats, planted native plants, taken part in the RSPB bird watch and put together an information poster about a woodland creature. Oh they have been busy, busy, busy and all the time, they have been finding out all about the woodland on their doorstep and helping to nurture it.

The Club also have an education area now within the wood. The conservation group helped to clear this area and the NW Club have planted some native wildflowers to encourage butterflies and moths into the area.



The Eurasian treecreeper, spotted in the woods in February, looking for insects on the trees

A brief colourful visitor to the woods was the waxwing, looking for berries



Projects:

There has been ongoing maintenance of the revetment, with the planting of a hedge to help protect it. The hedge planting was carried out by 2nd Martlesham Heath Brownies, under the watchful eye of their leader, none other than Sid Squirrel (aka, The PWCG scribe, me) wearing her Brown Owl outfit! It is hoped that the hedge will also create a new habitat too. 'Peters Gate' has been fitted and was officially opened in February by Beryl Izzard, his widow. A bunker has been excavated by two young members of the Group as part of their DoE Award. We look forward to completion of the fuel tanks and surrounding area by the Autumn. The Pathways project is well under way with resurfacing of the paths with chippings and the clearing of areas alongside to encourage growth of existing and newly planted trees, shrubs and wildflowers.



Thanks for your Support

Our thanks and appreciation once again to those members who provide the workforce and their expertise. We are delighted to welcome new volunteers. For more information on this and other aspects of PWCG, please access the website at www.martlesham.org.uk/portalwoodlandsgroup

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