

OXFORD WILDLIFE

NUMBER 115 **NEWS** WINTER 2018



**Grass Snake with Slow Worms at the Trap Grounds.
August 2017. Photo by Nicola Devine.**



Work has continued at Boundary Brook Nature park but there is still a need for much more to be done.

Would you be willing to come along sometime or do you know of anyone who might help even if it is only occasionally? If so please would you or the person you were thinking of please contact the Warden of the Nature park – Alan Hart - on 07901 120 308 or on 07979 608 013.

Alan plans to have regular work parties on 3 days each week: Tuesdays 10am-1pm, Fridays 10am-3pm and Sundays from 10am-1pm. Do please come and help if you are able.

We would be most grateful for any help even if only occasional. Many thanks.



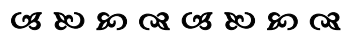
NEWS FROM BOUNDARY BROOK NATURE PARK

Much more hard work has been done in the last few months and more needs to be done. We are cutting timber to make the pond safe again. This will go to replace the bramble by the side of the pond-dipping platform that has been removed which meant that if children fell they could slip under the platform and fall into the pond and be unable to climb out.

We are starting to clear the buffer zone behind the houses in Howard Street to make the cleared zone wider. We plan to create a path to link up with the path from Home Wood to make access easier.

Help is needed - We need more physically fit helpers any time they can come.

Ring Alan Hart on 07901 120 308 or 07979 608 013 to find out when he will be there. He is usually there on a Tuesday or Thursday but also on other days. On Sundays there are regular work parties (see details on page 12). Ring Alan first before you start out to check he will be there. Members of the Group can have a key so they can come in any time and do any work they have been told needs to be done.



PAST EVENTS

We had the Open Day in September, the Children's Autumn Activities in November and at the time of writing the newsletter the Christmas get-together is still to come. Not many people come to our events we must try to advertise more widely. Has anyone got some tips for how to spread our message – e.g. which papers to advertise in, where to put posters? Please let me know if have ideas.

Janet Keene, keene@ouwg.org.uk or tel 01865 820522.



Trap Grounds news

SLOW WORMS IN SUBURBIA

The Trap Grounds Town Green in north Oxford, a suburban mosaic of woodland, meadows, and ponds, was for many years used as an unofficial rubbish dump. One advantage of its previous use (perhaps the only advantage) was the piles of rubble and sheets of corrugated iron left lying around on the site, which provided perfect refugia for *Anguis fragilis*, the slippery legless lizard more commonly known as Slow Worm. This declining species is classified as a Priority Species under the UK Biodiversity Action Plan.

When we (the Friends of the Trap Grounds) took on the management of the site, we moved the rubble piles to sunny banks, and we always leave piles of grass cuttings nearby to provide winter refuges for the reptiles. The policy has paid off handsomely, in that the thriving population of Slow Worms helped to earn us the status of Local Wildlife Site a couple of years ago. This year, with the help of Angela Julian from the Amphibian and Reptile Group UK, we conducted a weekly survey for five months, with excellent results. In a three-acre expanse we recorded a total of 335 Slow Worms found basking under black felt mats, sometimes curled up companionably with Grass Snakes (as in Nicola Devine's photograph on the front cover), or with toads, frogs or newts. The most productive mats were all in full sun or light shade; those in fully shaded woodland spots yielded no results at all.

Some interesting facts about Slow Worms, taken from the website of Wildscreen Arkive (www.arkive.org): the scientific name, *Anguis fragilis*, means 'fragile snake', referring to the ability of this lizard to shed its tail when seized; the tail may continue to wriggle after being shed, and can distract predators while the Slow Worm escapes. A new tail begins to regenerate after a couple of weeks. The Slow Worm usually emerges from hibernation in March, and courtship tends to take

place between mid-May and late June, at which time males typically become aggressive towards each other. During courtship, a male takes hold of the female by biting her head or neck, and the bodies of the two lizards will become intertwined. Courtship may last for as long as 10 hours before copulation occurs. Depending on the local climate, the female Slow Worm will mate annually, or once every two years. She gives birth to an average of eight live young between August and September. It takes between six and eight years for the Slow Worm to become fully grown, although the male reaches sexual maturity at three or four years of age. The female becomes sexually mature at four or five years of age. The species is relatively long-lived, with one specimen known to have lived for 54 years in the United Kingdom.

The skin of the Slowworm is shed at intervals throughout its life. In the United Kingdom it is protected under Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981), which makes it illegal to kill, injure, and sell individuals of this species.

Our website: www.trap-grounds.org.uk

Catherine Robinson, Secretary, The Friends of the Trap Grounds



Rain Drops Keeps Falling On My Head

I often explore in these writings, do we listen or do we really hear? Do we look or do we see? Do we sniff or do we really smell? Do we touch or do we feel? Do we eat or do we really taste?

A wildlife garden is a busy ecosystem with all its strands and food chains.

I was sat in one such garden the other day, watching the rain arrive. That life-giving occurrence that often causes the amphibians, slugs and worms to appear.

Initially single drops, disintegrating on impact, or retaining their form in little gelatinous balls, distorting the light. Their form secure, yet fragile at the same time. Reminiscent of all life in a wildlife garden, even our own existence in it.

Are we fully aware of all that makes up the construct of these little jewels of life? What stories could each droplet tell if they could speak? Maybe, they do communicate a message, and by using our hearing, senses of touch, taste and smell, not just our vision. We may actually be able to pick up those communications?

When it rains, do we experience each droplet or just that it's wet?

What happens to those individual rain drops as they are joined by others and merge to form a layer of the wet stuff? On a microscopic level can this merged body of water still offer up parameters and a residual separation. So each drop still exists whilst still being part of the sum total of the mass of water?

Kind of again reflective of the ecosystems in our gardens and in our own lives. A bigger picture is always made up of an infinite volume of individual parts. These little rains drops I was watching are not only a reflection of the light, but they reflect ourselves back at us too.

Happy Gardening, **Stuart Mabbutt**, Wildlife Gardening Specialist, 01865 747243, www.wildmaninspires.co.uk



Nature Really Does Heal

Stress some researchers reveal is relieved by nature and some even state that environments can increase or reduce stress levels, which clearly can have a cumulative effect on our bodies. What you are sensing with all your key senses at any moment is changing not only mood, but how your body and internal processes are working. It's often unseen but we can still feel it. Unpleasant environments can cause us to feel anxious and a multitude of other emotions and feelings. Blood pressure, heart beat, tension can often then follow. We all know a nice environment reverses that.

Regardless of who or where we are, we find nature relaxing and healing on some level.

So being out in your wildlife garden, see how it affects your mood. Does it reduce anger and fear? How long does it take for an increase in pleasant feelings to appear again?

It only helps us on an emotional level but on a physical one too. Research being **done** in classrooms, hospitals and even offices seems to show even one plant, well positioned, can have an impact on stress and anxiety. So go on, immerse yourself in your garden, and feel better for it.

Happy Gardening. **Stuart Mabbutt**, Wildlife Gardening Specialist, 01865 747243

www.wildmaninspires.co.uk

Rachel Fell wrote to tell us that, “I took the photo (below left) this year in Northern Italy of a female Brimstone butterfly. I hadn’t realised they were greeny-white with white bodies, as opposed to yellow- really pretty.



Also (right), a picture of mullein moth caterpillars in my garden in Stanford in the Vale, who seem to have been enjoying my Verbascums.



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To our readers:-

Have any of you got interesting photos of wildlife which we could add to future newsletters. Please send them and any information to us by post to the editor:

Janet Keene,
7, Norwood Ave,
Southmoor,
Abingdon OX13 5AD
or email: keene@ouwg.org.uk

GOOD PROGRESS AT SHOTOVER Ivan and Jacqueline Wright

In recent years Shotover Wildlife has had two main points of focus in the SSSI and Country Park at Shotover: restoration of the acidic-soil habitats on the Hill and rolling out a fresh approach to coppicing in Brasenose Wood; and importantly, all underpinned with the Shotover Wildlife ethos of species recording and monitoring.

Heath and acidic grassland

The work to restore and increase the area of heath and acidic grassland – which are scarce habitats in Oxfordshire – has made particularly good progress since Oxford City Council and Shotover Wildlife have combined their different resources. Conservation work is now delivered with increased efficiency by using either volunteers coordinated by Shotover Wildlife or the Parks Dept.'s machinery, and often a combination of both. Shotover Wildlife's understanding of habitats species ensures that the planning of conservation interventions is of maximum benefit. For example, having selected an area where heather once grew and seed remains in the soil, volunteer conservationists clear the larger scrub and small trees (but not the gorse).

Heather regeneration in progress : photo by Jacqueline Wright



This material is stacked for reptile and invertebrate habitat. The larger trees are then felled by Parks rangers and the volunteers deal with the wood. Gorse is very effectively controlled by being pulled-up by the roots by a Parks Dept. tractor. The tree stumps are then ground down by Parks and, using a collecting mower, bramble is cleared away, and wood chips and leaf litter 'hoovered' up. The result is open ground with plenty of bare soil for soil-nesting insects and the germination of scarce plants. The habitat response is then monitored by Shotover Wildlife. Specialist

plants such as Early Hair-grass (*Aira praecox*), Pill Sedge (*Carex pilulifera*) and Bird's-foot (*Ornithopus perpusillus*) soon take up residence, along with insects such as the Ornate-tailed Digger-wasp (*Cerceris rybyensis*) and the immensely industrious Minotaur Beetle (*Typhaeus typhoeus*).

Coppicing

Like many other ancient coppiced woodlands, Brasenose Wood is experiencing an increasing population of Muntjac and Roe Deer. Methods of preventing the deer from eating the Hazel shoots and killing the coppice stools are many and various but all are demanding on money, manual labour or both. A compromise has been developed by Shotover Wildlife in which the Hazel is cut at a height (80 centimetres) that minimizes the impact of deer while achieving the desired ground-flora response associated with coppicing. Experiments on the optimal cutting height began in 2008 and the results were published this year; the article can be found at <https://www.conservationevidence.com/individual-study/5913> and is titled 'Effect of varying coppice height on tree survival and ground flora in Brasenose Wood, Oxfordshire, UK.' by Ivan Wright and Timothy Bartel. So far about 3 hectares of the wood have been coppiced in this way during volunteer work days, with the Councils Parks Dept. felling any larger trees as required.

Corporate volunteering

Whether coppicing or working on the heath, in recent years about a fifth of the volunteer conservation work coordinated by Shotover Wildlife has been done by people from local companies and student groups. This 'donation' is a major

conservation resource and the benefits are immense, including exercise in the fresh air and an enjoyable day-off from the office – all with an environmental purpose.

For Shotover this year, with the help of a team of 20 from a local electronics company, we were able to upgrade an old dam (to keep one of the marshes wet), converting it from timber to compacted soil. The day's schedule of construction and tree clearance were somewhat ambitious but the brisk efficiency of their hard work was astonishing – job done!

Surveying

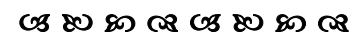
Species surveying has produced a number of important results this year, of which I will highlight just two. Firstly, in recent years there has been some concern for Shotover's Grass Snakes, Slow Worms and Common Lizards. Following some unfortunate disturbance to known Common Lizard and Grass Snake breeding sites on the Hill, and a general decline in casual records of these reptiles, an intensive survey was begun in spring 2017. The results were especially rewarding with resident reptiles of all three species taking refuge under our survey tins; including large Grass Snakes in breeding condition, and mixed groups of adult and juvenile Common Lizards with up to four individuals in view.

Common Lizards basking in spring sunshine: photo by Jaqueline Wright.



Secondly, beetle recording on Shotover has reached a number of important milestones. Shotover Wildlife has doubled the total number of known beetles on the Hill, taking the all-time total over the threshold of 1,000 species (including 800 species recorded since 2000). More importantly, the number of saproxylic beetles (those associated with dead wood) has reached 150; which, when submitted for national ranking, has placed Shotover at 24th in Britain (out of 203) for ecological importance. A further 6-8 species of such beetles would give Shotover European status.

On top of all this – it is such a beautiful place to go for a walk!



THE URBAN MYTH

On my many birdwatching walks embracing the Oxfordshire countryside I have gradually had to accept that much of our local farmland has been transformed, from a diverse habitat that included so many life large swathes of land, yielding high cereal output using large amounts of herbicides and pesticides to achieve this end. What was once a living landscape is in many instances huge sterile fields in which nothing but wheat, barley and oil-seed rape prevail and other natural life including the insects, mammals, birds and plant life have all but been eradicated.

Linnet



Goldfinch



It is usual after a stroll through this somewhat barren environment, that when one gets back to the villages, towns and cities, that the wildlife that has been looked for, is suddenly in some abundance, in the gardens, allotments and untidy corners.

Many urban dwellers keep bees, create ponds and leave ragged corners to encourage the life that has been destroyed on much of our farmland. plants like the wonderful lavender to feed the pollinators and elf size houses to give some protection to our rapidly disappearing hedgehogs and of course supplementary feeding for our birds along with nest boxes for the hole users among them.



Green Woodpecker

We now have the ridiculous situation that the brown field sites we once encouraged developers to choose in order to save our farmland has now been reversed with these very sites becoming **havens for much of our threatened wildlife. There are also very caring and concerned farmers out there trying their best, in difficult financial times,** to make the best of the wildlife strips they have been encouraged to embrace although some seem to be a lot better at it than others. It is noticeable just how much better some are at for instance hedgerow management.

As you will no doubt have latched on- I value the contribution you urbanites are making to helping our ‘under the cosh’ wildlife and consider you as major players in the future of Oxfordshire’s wildlife conservation.

So What Is The Urban Myth? It’s the commonly held view that to experience wildlife you need to get out onto the surrounding farmland, when nearer the truth is the fact that you urbanites are helping to create a most necessary alternative. The more caring and thoughtful of you are gardening organically and not using noxious toxic sprays that are the norm for modern farming as it attempts to remain profitable, you are also the folk who combat your slug problems by using the old coffee grounds from the coffee machine and a host of other methods to work with the natural world rather than be at odds with it.



Short eared owl

A quick mention of a recently read book that every wildlife enthusiast should turn the pages of titled, ‘Natural Capitol’ by Professor Dieter Helm this looks at the future of not only our local natural world but also tackles the global situation and is an incredible and worthwhile attempt to bring some sanity into our attempt spiralling out of control situation.

Barry Hudson.
Secretary of the Oxford Ornithological Society.



Once more onto the beach, dear friends...

When I moved to the Lake District in 2014, I thought I'd spend my free time walking in the fells like Alfred Wainwright. I've done some of that but much more often I've walked the Solway coast. In August I started a beach-cleaning group because of what I found there: rubbish arriving on every tide, most of it plastic and all of it preventable if people took more care.

First of all, what's the Solway? On a map of Britain, it's the blue wedge of sea that splits England from Scotland in the north west at the top of Cumbria. It's the estuary where the Rivers Eden and Esk meet the Irish Sea, stretching from Carlisle in the north to Maryport in the south. There are no dramatic cliffs or raucous seaside resorts - it's an understated kind of place where you can walk for hours on a pebble-and-sandy beach or across a salt-marsh with nobody to bother you.

Mawbray

Why do we treat the sea this way? Next, what's the rubbish on the beaches? Think of anything. That beach is Grune Point. I took the photo to show what type of rubbish washes up on a beautiful shingle spit.

Silloth West.

Also, there are thousands of tiny blue rods which are what's left of cotton buds when the fluffy tips have washed away.

Anything made from plastic and you'll find it: bottles, buckets, syringes, disposable cigarette lighters, razors, plant pots, shoes, used shotgun cartridges, shredded polythene, nylon rope, fish boxes



from trawlers, tangles of fishing line, broken toys, oil canisters and small containers of every type and colour.

There's a fashion at birthdays, weddings and so on for releasing shiny balloons printed with a cheerful message and trailing a long white ribbon. What goes up must come down, and sadly we find a lot of burst balloons on beaches. They're a menace because the ribbon is normally tangled with seaweed and the soggy plastic half-buried in sand. It's not a happy ending to a celebration. Who picks up this beach rubbish? Volunteers just like the ones who help at Boundary Brook

Nature Park. The numbers have ranged from six to twenty for two-hour events which normally run from 10am to midday. I've noticed that if you advertise a work party, you get mostly male volunteers. A beach clean is different - we get more women than men plus several children with their parents and a few dogs, including my own.

I mentioned this to Cumbria Wildlife Trust, who have given free publicity via their website plus advice about first aid, risk assessments, a yellow sharps box and other grim necessities. The Trust is thinking of changing 'work party' to 'conservation day' in order to make it sound less strenuous and masculine. We had the same thought in the Oxford Conservation Volunteers, who use the term 'task' for their Sunday projects.



Here's a new idea: the can-do day. 'Can' stands for Care About Nature. 'Can-do' stresses useful things which men and women are equally suited for: cutting scrub, clearing brambles, planting trees, putting up nest-boxes, feeding a bonfire, drinking tea, munching biscuits and so on. If you frighten people with things they can't do - such as using a chainsaw and lifting heavy logs - numbers will be low and mostly male. I think a group is more sociable, talkative and cheerful when there's a good balance of men and women.

Have you noticed how plastic pollution has hit the news recently? There are swirling masses of debris in our oceans, polystyrene floating near the North Pole, sea-birds and turtles choked by plastic mistaken for food, micro-particles in our shellfish, bottles on the shore of remote desert islands and you may remember more horrible reports. This wonder-material has outrun our will and ability to recycle it. It's so cheap that we can afford to use it once and throw it away.

Would you be willing to pay a 20p deposit on anything you buy in a plastic bottle or in a drinks can? How many people will be motivated to reclaim their 20 pences by recycling what they paid for? Which shops can make money by handling these high-volume, low-value materials? There are many practical problems to solve, but this is an idea whose time has come: single-use is selfish use and the planet can't take it!

What can you do in Oxford, which has many waterways but no beach? If you buy cotton buds, look for the ones that have a white cardboard stick. If your neighbours or workmates are planning to release balloons for a celebration, bake them a cake instead. If you buy bottled water, re-fill your trendy bottle from a tap and nobody will know. I'm flummoxed by tetrapak cartons however - they have a foil inner lining that stops them being recycled as cardboard. Does anybody accept them?

Finally, where's the fun in picking up other people's rubbish? To me as organiser it's an adventure: I don't know who'll turn up and I don't know what we'll find. Some people do it for a healthy seaside walk. Some want to protect wildlife such as the black and white oystercatchers which flock to the shore like marine magpies. Others have an eco-warrior approach - every sack of rubbish fights back against our throwaway society. We all trudge back to where we started, bursting bags in hand, tired but happy we've changed the world in a small way. It's simple and it works.

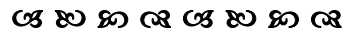
John Gorrill, Foreign Correspondent.

Donnington Park Development grant.

Oxford City Council gave the Donnington Tenants and Residents Association a grant of £44,000 towards the cost of developing part of the local Donnington Park for nature and wildlife project and they have had to match fund for the facilities which the local community have asked for.

For more information contact Cecily Kirtland 01865 242852.

Cecily Kirtland from the DTRA has told us how delighted they are with their grant. We hope to have more details in the next Newsletter



BARRACKS Lane Community Garden Project

Website details - <http://www.barrackslanegarden.org.uk/>

now on facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/BarracksLaneCommunityGarden>

EVENTS FOR OTHER ORGANISATIONS (For contacts see page 11 unless otherwise listed)

Tue, 6th Feb 2018 7.45-9.15pm. Warburg memorial lecture – ‘Oxfordshire's Threatened Plants’.

This is a joint talk between BBOWT and the Ashmolean Natural History Society Nissan Lecture Theatre, St Antony's College, OX2 6JF. The speakers are Peter Creed and Dr Camilla Lambrick. They are talking about their book they are about to publish – Oxfordshire's rare flora.

This fifteen-year project has studied the fates and fortunes of 400 or so of the rarest plants in the county. The rate of loss of species has risen sharply from about one per decade to over ten per decade in the 1970s to 90s. Some of the loss is due to habitats becoming unsuitable e.g. nutrient enriched or overgrown. Active measures may stem the tide, and species are even returning – last year the Loddon pondweed returned to the Thames, and dioecious sedge was refound at the Lye Valley in Oxford.

Tues 13th February, 2018 10:00am – 11:00am & 1:00pm – 2:00pm. Sutton Courtenay Environmental Education Centre during February Half Term. All sessions are booking only and children must be accompanied by an adult. Workshop: HOOOO's For Dinner? Become a detective with a difference! Discover what our local owls have been eating for dinner. Dissect an owl pellet and be amazed at what you find. Activities are suitable for age 6+. **BOOKING ESSENTIAL.** £4 per child, accompanying adults free. Both sessions can be booked online at: www.bbowt.org.uk

For more information contact the centre by: Tel: 01235 826024 or Email: sceec@bbowt.org.uk

Saturday 17th March, 10.00 am to 12.00 noon. Lower Windrush / Rushy Common Nature Reserve Lucy Kennery will lead a circular walk around Rushy Common Nature Reserve and the surrounding Lower Windrush, and tell us en route about her role as the Lower Windrush Valley Project Manager. After the walk we will visit a bird hide to see what birds we can find over the lake (cake will be available here for a donation and attendees are encouraged to bring a thermos flask of tea!). Meet at Rushy Common Nature Reserve car park (SP38080741, just under a kilometre south-east along Tar Road from nearest postcode OX29 6UJ). Further information and detailed directions available at: <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/content/rushy-common-nature-reserve-and-tar-lakes>

Tuesday 10th April: The challenges facing butterflies, moths and nature by Dr Jim Asher 7.45 pm At the Syndicate Room, St Antony's College, OX2 6JF. Butterflies and moths are suffering impacts from changes in climate, habitats and plant communities, alongside wider challenges to nature. The talk will describe these challenges, some of the actions being taken to tackle them, locally and internationally, and where we are able to demonstrate success. Dr Asher is butterfly recorder for Berks, Bucks and Oxon, author/co-author of several books on butterflies and national chair of Butterfly Conservation, the world's largest insect conservation charity.

CONTACTS FOR OTHER ORGANISATIONS

Ashmolean Natural History Society of Oxfordshire
(ANHSSO): Oxford 863660

Oxford Conservation Volunteers

www.ocv.org.uk (OCV): Jo 07887 928115

Barracks Lane Community Garden

(BLCG) 07729 655 543

Botanic Garden: (BGO Oxford 286690

British Trust for Conservation Volunteers (BTCV)
01296 330033

Butterfly Conservation: David Redhead Oxford 772520

Campaign for the Protection of Rural England
(CPRE) Sietske Boeles Oxford 728153

City's Countryside Sites or Biodiversity in Parks
Oxford 252240 email: parks@oxford.gov.uk

Friends of Aston's Eyot (FAE)

Ruth Ashcroft 01865 248344

Friends of CS Lewis Reserve (FoCSL)

Oxford 775476

Friends of Lye Valley (FoLV)

Judy Webb 01865 377487

Friends of the Earth (Oxford):

Fiona Tavner 07954390933

Friends of Milham Ford Nature Park (FoMFNP)

Judy Webb 01865 377487

Friends of the Trap Grounds (FoTG)

Catherine Robinson Oxford 511307

Friends of Warneford Meadow (FoWM)

Sietske Boeles T: 01865 728153

Fungus Survey of Oxfordshire(FSO)
Molly Dewey Oxford 735525

Local Wildlife Trust (BBOWT)

T: Oxford 775476

Oxford Ornithological Soc. (OOS):

Barry Hudson T: 07833 350288

Oxfo **Oxford Preservation Trust (OPT)**

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Oxfordshire Amphibian and Reptile Group

Rod d'Ayala, T: 01235 511 861

Oxfordshire Badger Group:

Julia Hammett Oxford 864107

Oxfordshire Bat Group:

David Endacott T: 01235 764832

Oxfordshire Mammal Group (OxMG)

Judith Hartl T: Oxford 775476 ext. 211

Oxfordshire Nature Conservation Forum

now Wild Oxfordshire T: 01865 407034

Oxfordshire Flora Group (OFG)

Sue Helm T: 07774205972

Science Oxford Live (SOL):

T: 01865 810000

Shotover Wildlife (SW):

Chair: Ivan Wright T: Oxford 874423

SS Mary & John Churchyard Group,

Ruth Conway T: Oxford 723085

Thames Valley Environmental Records
Centre (TVERC)

Hannah Boylan T: Oxford 815418

OXFORD URBAN WILDLIFE GROUP

Website: www.ouwg.org.uk

Don't forget that we are here to help. Please contact any member of the committee for help or

advice on wildlife matters and we will attempt to help or to put you in touch with someone who can answer.

NEXT NEWSLETTER

Please send your copy for the future newsletters
(as soon as possible to: Janet Keene, 7
Norwood Avenue, Southmoor, Abingdon,
OX13 5AD or if possible email:
keene@ouwg.org.uk.

Alan Hart (Warden) of Nature Park 07979 608 013 or
07901 120 alanouwg@gmail.com 308

Janet Keene: Newsletter T: 01865 820522
keene@ouwg.org.uk



OUWG EVENTS www.ouwg.org.uk

JANUARY

SATURDAY 27: Walk through University Parks to the river to look at any wildlife and adaptations to the winter environment. Meet at the main entrance gate on Parks Road at 2pm. The walk time and distance we go will depend on the weather but you can leave whenever you wish.

FEBRUARY

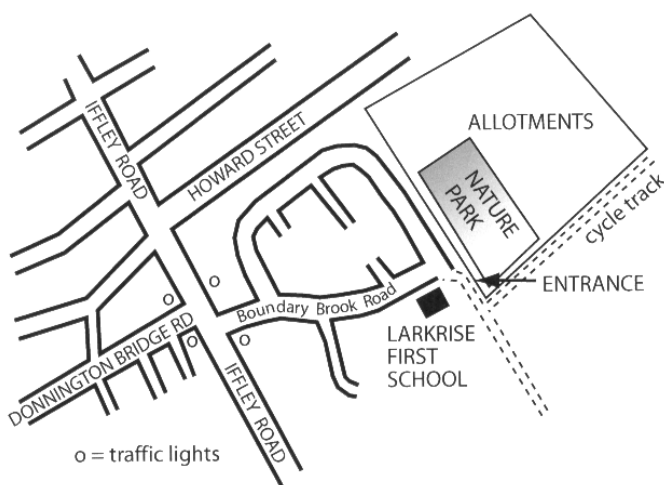
SATURDAY 17: Explore Boundary Brook Nature Park. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Come to the entrance at 2pm and there will be a guided walk if you want to join in. There will be a Treasure Hunt for Children.

MARCH

SUNDAY 25: OPEN DAY at Boundary Brook Nature Park 2-4pm. Come and see the spring flowers, the frogs, newts and toad in the pond. See and hear the many birds which now nest here. There will be a book stall if it is dry and activities for children. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

WORK PARTIES at Boundary Brook Nature Park: Sundays between 10am and 1pm. Refreshments provided. Ring 07979 608 013 or 07901 120 308 on day to ensure park will be open.

BOUNDARY BROOK NATURE PARK. Come and help us to manage the Nature Park. You can choose your task from a variety of jobs. A warm welcome guaranteed. You need not come for the whole time. Please ring on the day of the work party to ensure it has not been cancelled through bad weather etc.



Contact: Alan Hart on **07901 120 308** or **07979 608 013**. There is often someone working at Boundary Brook so, if you want to come at other times, find out who will be there and when by ringing Alan Hart but check before setting out to make sure it is still on.

Bus route: Stagecoach Route 3.

OXFORD URBAN WILDLIFE GROUP If you wish to contact OUWG or would like to become a member write to the editor: Janet Keene, 7 Norwood Ave, Southmoor, Abingdon OX13 5AD or Tel: Oxford 820522.

E-mail: keene@ouwg.org.uk

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