

The Naturalist.
Newsletter of the BSDNHS
No 8. August 2009.

From Bob Reed:

Dear Member,

Please find with this short newsletter your programme of talks for the forthcoming winter season. Thank you very much Carol for once again putting together such an interesting and varied programme for us. We have had a rather mixed season for summer walks. We started well with an excellent Spring visit to Wall Wood where we saw a good variety of flowering plants in an excellent woodland setting. Unfortunately, the visit to the Gibberd Garden had to be cancelled due to bad weather, I understand that at least one person may have arrived not realising we had cancelled the evening. I do normally say that you should contact the leader before the evening especially if circumstances are doubtful as in this case. Our visit to Parndon Mill, where we were warmly welcomed by the owner, was partly successful in as much as our pond dipping in the river resulted in very negative results which have had a knock on effect as you will read later. The glowworm visit to the forest was once again dogged by bad weather, recent storms had left pockets of hail in the grass and the weather radar showed the thunderstorms moving away with the exception of the one that soaked us. During the evening we walked 2.39 miles and saw two glowworms in the last 50 yards! At least that made it worthwhile! Where else can you see glowworms locally? We were pleased to welcome a prospective new member who supervised our new moth traps while we were away and displayed for us a fair range of species caught during the evening in spite of the weather. The evening visit to survey the Daubenton's bats was successful and we recorded between eight and nine animals flying over the lake. In the last week the professional ecologists have been back to the forest to trap and radio tag bats. We attended on the Friday evening and were unlucky as eight bats were caught shortly after we left. These included Natterers, Barbastelle and Daubenton's. One of the latter was radio tagged and led the ecologists to a significant roost in a tree by the lake. If you would like to be included in any future events regarding bats then please let me know.

Post of Treasurer.

I have sadly to report that due to his continuing illness Barrie Hills is unable to continue in his post as Treasurer. Barrie has given sterling service to the society over the years and has always been a reliable and trustworthy Treasurer. Our best wishes go to him and his family at this difficult time. In the meanwhile, we need to recruit a replacement for Barrie. The post of Treasurer is not particularly onerous but it is a vital one if the society is to continue. The Committee are asking if there is a member who is willing to take up this post in the near future. The job of Treasurer consists of the following:-

- Be responsible for the overall organisation of the society's finances.
- Collect in annual subscriptions and issue membership cards.
- Prepare a statement of finances for the AGM and Auditor.
- Be involved in organisation and financing of occasional publications such as those produced by the Bird Group.
- Attend committee meetings (at most three per year) and be able to give a statement of current finances.

These days as we have our meetings in the National Trust Meeting Room there is no problem of booking or paying for meetings premises. Help can be given where there is involvement of IT for example in a production of labels for membership card envelopes.

The committee sincerely hopes that someone will come forward to fill the position of Treasurer. The society has been through a difficult time in the last two years but with our move to Hatfield Forest we have placed the group on a new footing and have a bright and secure future to look forward to. It would be a pity if the society were to fail at this stage if we could not fill this current position. If you have any ideas, proposals or indeed are able to volunteer your services then please get in touch with me on 01279 600726 or coppicereed@hotmail.com.

Living Landscapes Project.

Many of you will be aware of this countywide project involving a range of conservation bodies. Currently, we as a society are trying to push the case for the Stort Valley as a good example of a Living Landscape. In this context I have paid a visit to the river in the company of an Environment Agency Ecologist and Tim Hill or the HMWT as a result of our poor findings of invertebrates in the river. As a result Tim has put together an action plan part of which involves a role for the BSNHS. Our task, which I have already started is to highlight part of the Navigation which might possibly be suitable for environmental enhancement. The idea is to submit proposals and plans which can be held on record to be available as and when bids for funding become available. I think we are essentially looking at a longer term project but the general feeling is that it is a valuable role for the BSNHS to be involved in. If you would like to be included or help then get in touch with me at the above contact.

Hatfield Forest Wood Fest 2009.

We shall be manning our 'stall' at the Wood Fest on the 12th and 13th of September. Several of you have already offered to help on those days and the more people that support the society the better. We shall be running an activity for children as well as publicising the BSNHS and trying to recruit members. If you would like further details then contact me as above. Please offer to attend or help out on either of the two days, you do not have to be an expert naturalist but just willing to tell people about the society and maybe help out with putting up the tent, helping Margaret with the children's activity or packing away at the end of day two days. This is a major publicity event for the society so please help if you can.

Contact Bob Reed on 01279 600726 or e-mail coppicereed@hotmail.com.