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Environment

Brook Meadow Open Day

The Brook Meadow Conservation Group (BMCG) committee is organising an **Open Day** on **Sunday 13 July** to celebrate the designation of the Brook Meadow Nature Reserve (see page 1). The event will include displays of photographs of the varied wildlife of Brook Meadow and conservation work carried out by the group, with Guided Walks, Nature Hunt and Nature Trail, and much more. Look out for posters with details nearer the time.

This year's programme of events also includes, a **Guided Spring Walk through Brook Meadow** led by Brian Fellows, local wildlife expert and founder of the Brook Meadow Conservation Group, on **Sunday 27th April**, starting at 10am. With lots of wild flowers in bloom, migrant and resident birds in full song, many beautiful butterflies and if you are lucky you might even see a Water Vole or two.

Steve Taylor, herbalist at the Medicine Garden, is giving one of his popular herb walks in Brook Meadow on **Thursday 29th May**, starting at 7pm. This year's theme, as part of Herbal Medicine Awareness Week, is **Herbal First-aid**.

All walks meet next to the Brook Meadow information board in Palmers Road car park.



Frances Jannaway, Chair of BMCG

Friends of Hollybank Woods

Spring is on the way and we have a great programme of walks to enjoy, looking at the flowers, birds, trees, moths, bats and butterflies found in the woods. Children are very welcome to come on these walks. We hope to see you there.

Spring and Summer Walks

Spring Walk, Flowers and Birdsong, Sunday April 20th, with local expert Brian Fellows. Bluebells should be in flower, and possibly Early Purple Orchids. We hope to hear migrant birds, Cuckoos, Willow Warblers, Swallows, House Martins, which will be reaching Britain, along with our resident birds.

Trees, Sunday 11th May. Jonathon Huet of 'Walk with Trees' will show us how to identify the wide diversity of trees in Hollybank Woods and explain the uses of the different parts of trees.

Moths and Bats, Friday 27th June, 8-11pm. Children love this evening and have great fun helping to catch moths for Mike and Robin to identify. Mike will be bringing along some spectacular Hawk Moths to sit on the children's fingers – the moths are usually quite happy to keep still for all to see. If we are VERY lucky, we might find the rare Merveille du Jour that has been found in the woods. There should be plenty of moths – but we don't usually find many bats!

Butterflies, Sunday 20th July. This is National Butterfly Week and last year at the same time Peacock, Comma, Gatekeeper, Speckled Wood, Meadow Brown, Red Admiral and Holly Blue were plentiful in the woods.

All walks are 10am – 12 noon unless stated otherwise. Meet at the top of Hollybank Lane.

Butterfly Survey. Once a week from April until September, on a set route, butterflies are recorded and the results sent to Hampshire Butterfly Conservation. The walk lasts approximately 1 hour. If you would like to help this year, please e-mail paulinebond@fsmail.net or phone 01243 376302.

Pauline Bond

Friends of Nore Barn Woods

Work days have continued through Winter into Spring to maintain the woods. Some of the work concentrated on clearing unwanted growth from the glades, to allow trees and flowers to develop, and further work has been to cut back unwanted growth from the paths. Three bird boxes have been installed as a trial. Havant Borough Council has continued to support us strongly, with contractors trimming the hedge along the Wayfarers Walk and coppicing a small number of trees to encourage regrowth.

Management of the woods is now beginning to pay dividends, with an owl and a pair of Greater Spotted Woodpeckers returning to the woods. Kestrels also nested last year. Hawthorns are strongly in leaf, with numerous "Lords and Ladies" and Bluebells.

The Annual General Meeting of the Friends will be held on the fore-shore on Saturday 7 June, 11am. All members are invited to attend.

For further information on the Friends of Nore Barn Woods, contact: Bruce Darby, Tel 372905 or Roy Ewing, Tel 370705. Or visit our website: www.norebarnwoods.org.uk

Roy Ewing

Hampshire's Changing Climate

Hampshire County Council Commission into Climate Change published its final report in October. The Commission, made up of senior councillors, academics and media people, took evidence from 28 county-based organisations grouped under four topics, namely physical environment, infrastructure, health and wellbeing and the economy. The Commission's remit was to ensure communities in the county are ready for climate change and identify the support needed to deal with its impact.

Groups such as the RSPB, FoE, Hampshire Wildlife Trust, CPRE as well as experts on woodlands, coast and biodiversity, transport and business provided evidence.

The county flora and fauna will inevitably change with some common species of birds and flowers being replaced by new (some unwelcome) species. Agriculture will have to manage with less water as average temperatures rise between 1.4°C to 3.4°C by 2080. Sea levels are expected to be 0.4m higher by 2055 and 1.2m higher by 2115 compared to 1990.

55,000 dwellings in Hampshire situated on flood plains are at risk from coastal flooding. Internationally recognised habitats like Farlington Marshes and parts of Chichester Harbour are seriously threatened along with coastal aquifers from saline invasion.

The report looks at future energy needs with Partnership for Urban South Hampshire (PUSH) plans to deliver over 100MW of energy from renewable sources by 2026. These will include micro generation, Combined Heat & Power (CHP), and more eco homes. The jury remains out on bio fuels and wind/wave power although some are more sustainable than others. Southampton airport is set for a fourfold expansion, but says that by 2020 planes will be 50% more efficient than they were in 2000.

Overall, the conclusions echo the government's Stern Report published in 2006. Doing nothing is not an option. Fundamental changes are needed in how and where development happens. Water will become increasingly precious. Extreme weather events and flooding will become more frequent bringing greater pressures on infrastructure and the emergency services. Hampshire's rivers and coastline will become a major focus area. Despite the evidence, public attitudes to climate change and engagement remains mixed and here the county is likely to be presented with its biggest challenge.

Ray Cobbett (Hampshire Friends of the Earth)

Emsworth Trees

What do you know about trees locally?

To increase awareness about the value of our local trees, Emsworth Tree Wardens are staging an exhibition in the Rudkin Room of Emsworth Museum during June. At this exhibition, you will find out about the significance of churchyard trees, including the ancient and enormous Yew at Warblington, about the importance of street trees in Emsworth and why some roads have been designated as having a 'Special Character'.

Did you know that Hollybank Woods has a pocket of semi natural ancient woodland and is part of the ancient Forest of Bere that used to cover most of South Hampshire? Do you know the history of the willows that flourish on the banks of the River Ems? And which trees were used in boat building, the crafting of bows and arrows, and in furniture making – and why? Can you identify the trees around our town and would you like to know more about their distinctive features – the hand-shaped leaves of Horse Chestnut, the black buds of Ash, the twirling keys of Sycamore and the delicate papery bark of Silver Birch?

Come to the *Emsworth Trees* exhibition at Emsworth Museum in June, and you will find the answers to all these questions, and much more besides. You will see lots of beautiful photos, drawings and watercolours of the huge variety of lovely trees we have in and around Emsworth, buy a Tree Trail booklet and perhaps tell us some stories about the local trees you know. Or perhaps even be inspired to plant a tree or join the Emsworth Tree Wardens. *Emsworth Trees* will be held in Emsworth Museum, opening on **Saturday 31 May until Sunday 29 June** (Saturdays 10.30am to 4.30pm, Sundays 2.30pm to 4.30pm).

Ann Jolly and Frances Jannaway

Walking to Health in Emsworth Free, safe, short walks in local woodland and countryside, every Wednesday throughout the year. 1st Wednesday of month: meet at Westbourne Church Hall, 10.15am; 2nd & 4th Wednesday: meet at SYRCH Centre, Cotton Drive, 10.15am; 3rd Wednesday: meet at Bridge Street car park, 10.15am. For further details contact Sara Kerr 02392 248807, email sara.kerr@ports.nhs.uk or Pauline Bond, walk leader Tel. 376302.



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