

Nature Networker

Spring 2005

News from the Nottingham Local Nature Reserve Network

Issue 10

Clifton Clear Water Project

Phase 2 of the desilting project at Holme Pit SSSI has been completed, and what a difference it has made! The contractors removed 184 loads of silt, each containing around 4.5m³ of silt. This means approximately 800m³ of silt has been removed! Throughout the project the work has been monitored by experts from Nottingham City Council, English Nature and The Environment Agency to make sure no harm came to the wildlife. The silt has been used on a nearby agricultural field, which will improve the quality of the soil.

Local Heritage Initiative The Local Heritage Initiative is a partnership between the Heritage Lottery Fund, Nationwide Building Society and The Countryside Agency.



Read all about it!

We often get enquiries about Beeston Sidings Local Nature Reserve, from people asking exactly where it is! This LNR is well hidden in-between a busy road, sports centre, Science Park and factory. Wildlife thrives in this unique site, and to share this with people the Conservation Team has designed a new leaflet, specifically for Beeston Sidings. If you would like to receive a leaflet, please call Felicity on **915 2727**.

Wildspace! Tool donation

Thanks to English Nature Wildspace! Project, for allowing Nottingham City Council to purchase tools to donate to the Dunkirk Angling and Conservation Group! To help them manage the habitats around the pond at Beeston Sidings Local Nature Reserve and maintain the fishing pegs and footpaths, they have been given loppers, bowsaws, spades and many other tools!

Sunrise Hill

Volunteers from the Bestwood Youth Project helped to clear vegetation from footpaths at Sunrise Hill Local Nature Reserve on the Bestwood Estate on Saturday 26th February. The Youth Project returned on March 5th for more conservation activities when they helped to remove grass from the base of young trees planted two years ago by pupils from Henry Whipple infants and junior Schools on the Bestwood Estate.



Sunrise Hill is the only LNR in the area being managed to preserve and enhance rare lowland acid grassland and forms an important link in a chain of green sites in the Bestwood area.

Focus on Friends

This time: Holme Pit Action Group (HPAG)

Holme Pit was declared as a Site of Special Scientific Interest in 1982. For many years the site suffered from anti-social behaviour including vandalism. Since the site was leased to HPAG there has been a tremendous improvement in the quality of the site and the volume of community participation.

As part of the Local Heritage Initiative grant to de-silt the pond, the group will be holding an exhibition at the Clifton Leisure Centre later in the year.

If you would like to become more involved, by fishing the pond and contributing to conservation projects, then call Felicity on **915 2727**.

It is with sadness that we pass on our condolences to the families of Bob Daly and Phil Boof who sadly, recently passed away. Both members were integral in the development and success of the Holme Pit Action Group and will be greatly missed.



Spring life on a Local Nature Reserve

Despite the cold weather, spring is on its way and it will be the time of year to get out your binoculars and identification books! At Bulwell Hall Park LNR the wildflowers that the site is renowned for will be flowering from March, with pale wood violet bringing the first lot of colour. In May, lesser stitchwort, common rock rose and yellow rattle add to the diverse selection of wildflowers.

Around the many ponds in Nottingham, keep an eye out for dragonflies and damselflies. From May you will be able to spot the common blue damselfly at Beeston Sidings and the banded demoiselle at Clifton Woods LNR. Southern Hawker dragonflies can be seen around June, especially at Colwick Woods LNR and Martins Pond LNR.



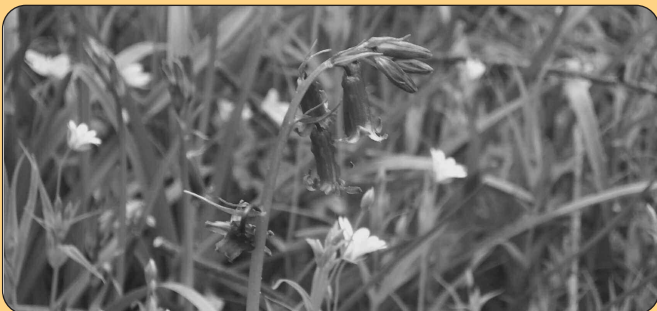
At all of the Local Nature Reserves, butterflies can be seen feeding from the wildflowers, such as common blues on bird's foot trefoil at Sunrise Hill LNR.

Volunteering in winter



Despite the cold weather, the volunteers at Nottingham's Local Nature Reserves have been working really hard this winter. In December and February the Friends of Colwick Woods LNR cleared encroaching vegetation from a once wetland site and the Friends of Wollaton LNR's have been building fences and fixing bridges! Habitat management work comes to a halt between March and October, as wildlife is nesting and we must be careful not to disturb them.

Some Special Site



You may not know, but Sellers Wood Local Nature Reserve is also a Site of Special Interest. In 1981, English Nature designated the site because it is "a fine example of broad-leaved semi-natural woodland and is of regional importance". The list of tree species includes aspen, elder, wild cherry, rowan, ash and wych elm. Sellers Wood is not only special for trees; lots of hoverflies have been recorded there including one called *Triglyphus primus*, which is nationally rare! Smooth newts, frogs and toads can also be seen in the many ponds found in Sellers Wood LNR. The site is located just off Wood Link in Bulwell, so pop along and see what you can see! Sellers Wood LNR is leased to the Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust. For more information please call **0115 958 8242**.

Local Nature Reserve Diary 2005

Date	LNR / Site	Event	Contact for more information
April			
Tuesday 19th	Martins Pond	Access Improvements Maintenance of fencing and footpaths throughout the reserve.	BTCV 0115 931 3316
Monday 25th	Martins Pond	History of Martins Pond and Wollaton Hall The Friends of Wollaton Local Nature Reserve invite you to a talk on the history of the area, with a chance to see old photos and share stories.	Community Liaison Officer 0115 915 2727
May			
Tuesday 3rd Wednesday 4th Tuesday 10th	Clifton Woods	Non-native plant control Himalayan Balsam is an introduced species, and competes with native wildflowers. By simply pulling the plant and leaving it in piles, the spread is controlled, giving native wildflowers the chance to flourish.	BTCV 0115 931 3316
Sunday 8th	Clifton Woods and Clifton Grove	Condition Survey A look at the present condition of Clifton Local Nature, with the chance to learn how to access site management and how to make improvements in the future.	BTCV 0115 931 3316
Wednesday 11th	Holme Pit SSSI	Non-native plant control Similar to work at Clifton Woods, along the water course leading to the SSSI.	BTCV 0115 931 3316
Tuesday 24th Wednesday 25th Sunday 29th Tuesday 31st	Colwick Woods	Access Improvements Colwick Woods LNR is home to Colwick Cutting SSSI. To improve access this unusual feature, a footpath is being laid and we need your help!	BTCV 0115 931 3316
June			
Saturday 28th May - Sunday 19th June	City Wide	Celebrate Sustainability Celebrate Sustainability is an initiative encompassing the whole of Greater Nottingham to celebrate the work of local community groups and organisations who make sustainability a reality in their communities.	Community Liaison Officer 0115 915 2727
Monday 27th	Martins Pond	Outdoor Meeting Details to be arranged.	Community Liaison Officer 0115 915 2727

Most of these events are coordinated by BTCV, the UK's leading practical conservation charity. These events are free and you can get picked up from the City centre or meet them on site. If you would like to attend please contact them. Don't forget to wear sensible clothing and sturdy footwear and take a packed lunch!

Felicity Washbrook Community Liaison Officer: 0115 915 2727
Woodthorpe Grange, Woodthorpe Drive, Nottingham, NG5 4HA.
Email: felicity.washbrook@nottinghamcity.gov.uk

LNR Celebrations 2005

This June, the Wildspace! project comes to an end, and after all the hard work which the volunteers and Nottingham City Council has put in, English Nature are organising two weeks of celebrations.

The celebrations will take place from 16th - 31st July and so far, The Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust, Friends of Sunrise Hill and The Friends of Wollaton Local Nature Reserves have put forward events details.

If you would like to hold an event in celebration of the development of LNR's then call Felicity on **915 2727**.

Mad March Hares!

The Biodiversity Action Group is currently asking the people of Nottinghamshire to send in sightings of brown hares to the Biological and Geological Records Centre at Wollaton Hall.

Mad March hares were once a common sight in our countryside, but from the 1960's the species began to decline seriously, largely due to the intensification of farming practices in the period following the Second World War. Modern farms are typically specialised, whereas around a hundred years ago they tended to be mixed, providing a 'patchwork' style of farmland with a variety of habitats. These mixed, less intensive farms provided year-round grazing and long vegetation in which hares could hide and raise their young, known as leverets. Arable farms of today often do not provide suitable grazing in summer, while modern livestock farms tend to provide too little cover.

The brown hare is a priority species under the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (UK BAP) and is a species of conservation concern in Nottinghamshire. They are much larger than rabbits with longer limbs and long ears tipped with black. The frenetic 'boxing' behaviour they indulge in at this time of year actually involves females fighting off the unwelcome advances of over-amorous males, while the energetic fast chases are usually dominant males seeing off a rival.

A survey card is enclosed with this newsletter; extra copies can be obtained by sending a stamped addressed envelope to the Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust's Headquarters at the Old Ragged School, Brooke Street, Nottingham, NG1 1EA.



City Garden Competition

The annual City Garden Competition will be launched very soon. Anyone who lives in the city boundary can enter, and there are a variety of categories, whether you are an enthusiastic amateur or a green fingered genius you could win a prize worth £100.

The categories are:

- Best Front Garden**
- Best Container Display**
- Best Business Premises**
- Best Newcomer**
- Best Pub / Hotel / Restaurant**
- Best School / Children's Garden**
- Best Community Project**
- Best Community Centre Garden**
- Contribution to Conservation**
- Best Street**

For further information about the City Garden Competition please call Caroline Elmhirst, Nottingham in Bloom Partnership Manager on **0115 915 745**.

Contribution to Conservation

2003 saw the start of the Contribution to Conservation award, and last year Sunrise Hill LNR and the Dunkirk Angling and Conservation Group received awards.

This year why not nominate someone you know or a voluntary group who has worked really hard for their environment? For more details contact Paul Owen on **915 2746**.