



Wildspace!

News from Parndon Wood Nature Reserve

April 2010

e-news

Welcome to the April edition of Wildspace E-News, the monthly newsletter that keeps you in touch with all the activities and news from across Harlow Council's Nature Reserves and Wildlife Sites.

In this month's issue:

- **Picture of the Month**
- **Greenteam Volunteers**
- **International Year of Biodiversity 2010**
- **Forest Funtasia**
- **Events**
- **Printable calendar**

Picture of the Month



Corn Snake in a Harlow garden

Corn snakes, also known as red rat snakes, are a large, powerful, and non-venomous constrictor in the genus *Elaphe*. All the species in these taxa are medium to very large size Colubrids that feed on rodents and other small prey. All snakes, including the corn snake, have been persecuted by man out of justifiable fear but also ignorance. The corn snake is a prime example of this latter case, as they are often killed because they resemble a copperhead (a very venomous species).

Greenteam Volunteers

On Wednesday 17th March the Greenteam volunteers helped clear a site in Latton Woods where two new ponds have been created.



New ponds already full

We now have a task list prepared for the summer season with tasks from April-July listed opposite. Some months contain three tasks and we may even amend this to four tasks in certain months.

I will print off the full task list for the April task and we can discuss further additions during tea!

Greenteam Tasks

April-July 2010

Apr 7th – Parndon Moat Marsh: cut meadows and sedges

Apr 21st – Netteswell Plantation: dead hedge creation

May 5th – Latton Woods: pond re-alignment

May 19th – Possible extra date/site visit

June 2nd – Netteswell Plantation: stream clearance

June 16th – Latton Wood: waymark trail

June 30th – Parndon Wood: material preparation for bridge

July 7th – Maymeads Marsh: bridge construction

July 21st – Hare Street: footpath improvements

For more information contact:
glenn.mulleady@harlow.gov.uk
or 01279 430005

International Year of Biodiversity 2010

Saving our squirrels

Red squirrels in Northern Scotland are being saved by preventing grey squirrels spreading to these areas.



Red Squirrel

The red squirrel, *Sciurus vulgaris*, the UK's only native squirrel is severely endangered. Only 170,000 remain and 75% of those are found in Scotland.

Red squirrels are still thriving in northern Scotland because the grey squirrel, *Sciurus carolinensis*, has not yet moved into this area.

The grey squirrel is an invasive North American species introduced to the UK by humans. Grey squirrels outcompete red squirrels for food and habitat space which has led to the rapid loss of red squirrels over most of the UK.

The 3 year Saving Scotland's Red Squirrels project began in 2009. The project team are working to prevent the grey squirrel spreading further north in Scotland by targeted control measures. They are also planning to improve the forest habitats for red squirrels.

The project is also coordinating with another squirrel conservation project in the south of Scotland that is aiming to control the spread of the squirrelpox virus.

For red squirrels the virus can be fatal but grey squirrels are immune to this disease.

Further information:

www.biodiversityislife.net

forest fantasia

Night-Walk

Parndon Wood

Tuesday 6th April

8pm-9pm

Come along for an exciting night-walk to explore the woodland and its creatures in the dark!

There will also be fun night-time games and activities too!

Meet at the visitor centre at 8pm.



For more information or to book please call
01279 430005 or email
becky.naman@harlow.gov.uk

Harlow
Council
Working together for Harlow

Useful Links

- ❑ www.ancient-tree-hunt.org.uk to see details of the nationwide search for veteran trees.
- ❑ www.uksafari.com information on UK wildlife and identification charts.
- ❑ www.favouritetrees.com for information on The Epping Forest District search for veteran trees
- ❑ www.naturegrid.org.uk for information on biodiversity resources for teachers.
- ❑ www.londoncanals.co.uk for information on Londons canals!
- ❑ www.woodland-trust.org.uk for information on woodlands nationwide.
- ❑ www.enaturenotes.org.uk to create your own nature diary.
- ❑ www.naturedetectives.org.uk for childrens wildlife sheets and activities.
- ❑ www.foresteducation.org.uk for details of forest education schemes nationwide.
- ❑ www.efct.info details of a local Epping Forest Conservation Charity organising walks and events.
- ❑ www.harlowwildlife.org.uk for information on Harlow Conservation Volunteers and their work in the Town.
- ❑ www.harlowbees.co.uk for information on bees and bee keeping in Harlow

Contact Us

If you would like to find out more information, book a place on any of our events or have ideas and suggestions for our wildlife sites please contact us at:

Parndon Wood Nature Reserve
Parndon Wood Road
Harlow, Essex
CM19 4SF

Telephone: (01279) 430005

Email Biodiversity Officer :
glenn.mulleady@harlow.gov.uk

Website: www.harlow.gov.uk

Opening Times

Parndon Wood opening hours from
1st April-30th September 2010:

Saturdays 9am-6pm

Sundays 9am-6pm

Tuesdays 7-9pm

Open Bank Holidays 9am-6pm

Other times can be arranged by
appointment for community groups
and school visits.

April Events

Parndon Wood: Open Good Friday 9am-6pm

Easter Egg Hunt: Sunday 4th April 11am-3pm

The magical egg of Parndon Wood has been stolen! Search the woodland for egg-clues which will help you to discover where the magical egg has been hidden. With a choccy treat for all successful adventurers! Booking Essential.

Parndon Wood: Open Easter Monday 9am-6pm

Nightwalk: Tuesday 6th April 8pm-9pm

Come along for an exciting night-walk to explore the woodland and its creatures in the dark! There will also be fun night-time games and activities too!

Easter Holidays: Forest Funtasia

Join in a week of wild fun with den building, pond dipping, bug hunting, natural art and more!

Tues 6th April, 1-4pm

Weds 7th April, 1-4pm

Thurs 8th April, 9.30am-12.30pm

Fri 9th April, 9.30am-12.30pm

Acorn Group: Saturday 10th April 9am-12pm

Young people are invited to join staff at Parndon Wood to help carry out conservation work and discover more about what wildlife lives in the woods (suitable for 12-16 year olds).

Easter Holidays: Forest Funtasia

Join in a week of wild fun with den building, pond dipping, bug hunting, natural art and more!

Tues 13th April, 1-4pm

Weds 14th April, 1-4pm

Thurs 15th April, 9.30am-12.30pm

Fri 16th April, 9.30am-12.30pm

Dragon Adventure: Sunday 24th April 11am-3pm

St.George needs your help on a magical quest through Parndon Wood! Go on an adventure and achieve the challenges throughout the woods to defeat the dragon and rescue the princess!

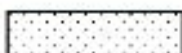
For further information and to book on events please contact glenn.mulleady@harlow.gov.uk or view www.harlow.gov.uk



April 2010

Parndon Wood open Saturdays & Sundays 9am-6pm & Tuesdays 7-9pm
 Nature Club 3.45-5.45 Term Time only

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
			1	2	3	4 Easter Egg Hunt 11am-3pm
5 Bank Holiday 9am-6pm	6 Night Walk 8-9pm	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21 Greenteam 10am-3pm	22	23 Natures Insite Reflecting Out 9.30am-4.30pm	24 Dragon Adventure 11am-3pm	25 Bluebell Walk 10am-12pm
26	27	28	29	30		



Forest Funtasia Opening Hours 1-4pm



Forest Funtasia Opening Hours 9.30-12.30pm