



# Wildspace!

News from Parndon Wood Nature Reserve

August 2008

**e-news**

Welcome to the August 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.

## Picture of the Month



**Muntjac Deer in Hospital and Risdens Wood taken by Steve Redwood**

In this month's issue:

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- Harlow Hotspots
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Muntjac were first introduced from China to Woburn Park in Bedfordshire in the early 20th century. Deliberate releases and escapes from Woburn, and Warwickshire lead to feral populations establishing. Their rapid spread across England and Wales has also been facilitated by deliberate movement and release by humans.

A common name for muntjac is "barking deer" resulting from the repeated, loud bark given under a number of circumstances. An alarmed muntjac may scream whereas maternal does and kids squeak.

## Harlow Hotspots Competition

HARLOW Hotspots is back. And this year it is bigger and better.

Following the outstanding success of last year's competition to enhance the town, the Harlow Star is again teaming up with Harlow Renaissance, Harlow Council and Essex County Council to find a project which will benefit the community and enhance the local environment.

The aim last year was to improve a single area of town but such was the response that two projects were chosen for a makeover - Cooks Spinney Wood and Church End pond.

In addition, a further 11 smaller works nominated by Harlow Star readers were undertaken by Kier Harlow.

This year we are inviting community groups, societies, tenant associations and charity or voluntary organisations to nominate a project which they would like to undertake and which will benefit both their group and the wider community.

Examples of projects that would be considered suitable as a Harlow Hotspot are:

Creating a sensory garden

Designing and creating a sculpture made from local natural sources

Enhancing a favourite area (e.g. placing benches at a scenic area)

Clearing up a natural beauty spot

Creating a small nature zone for wildlife

Planting trees or creating a flower bed

These are just a few suggestions but we really want to hear your ideas. Remember, the project must benefit both our groups and the wider community, so the area you would like to see enhanced must be accessible to the public.

Unlike last year we will not be considering projects nominated by individuals.

**THE CLOSING DATE FOR ENTRIES IS AUGUST 14, 2008.**

To nominate a project, fill in the nomination form below, attaching a photograph of the area in question, to Nicola Bowland, Harlow Renaissance, 5 Mitre Buildings, Harlow CM20 1DR.

Alternatively, you can telephone (01279) 400683 to request a form by post.

## Town Show

This years Town Show is on Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> August and the Nature Reserves team will running lots of activities inside the Natural Environment Tent.

Come along and help us design a new carving for Parndon Wood. The piece of Oak is prepared and ready to carve and is just waiting the design.



### Oak from Parndon Wood

The tree was felled roughly two years and has been laying up to dry out. The trunk was split in two using sledge hammers and steel wedges before being smoothed down with an axe and planed. A coating of linseed oil was applied to maintain the colour before carving the designs in September.



### Oak before splitting and the tools used



### Danny carving the rough shape



### The motley crew for the Town Show

## Harlow Tree Hunt



### Tree of the month

This months tree is a cracker. This Hornbeam pollard was found along an old dried up stream bed known as the ravine which runs north-south through Passmores.

However, this is no isolated tree, the entire stretch of the ravine is packed full of veteran Oaks, Ash, Hornbeam and even Lime trees.

Over the next month volunteers will focus on this area by photographing and logging the trees on the website:

[www.favouritetrees.com](http://www.favouritetrees.com)

For more information on the Tree Hunt and how to get involved contact:  
[glenn.mulleady@harlow.gov.uk](mailto:glenn.mulleady@harlow.gov.uk)

## Useful Links

- ❑ [www.ancient-tree-hunt.org.uk](http://www.ancient-tree-hunt.org.uk) to see details of the nationwide search for veteran trees.
- ❑ [www.uksafari.com](http://www.uksafari.com) information on UK wildlife and identification charts.
- ❑ [www.favouritetrees.com](http://www.favouritetrees.com) for information on The Epping Forest District search for veteran trees
- ❑ [www.naturegrid.org.uk](http://www.naturegrid.org.uk) for information on biodiversity resources for teachers.
- ❑ [www.londoncanals.co.uk](http://www.londoncanals.co.uk) for information on Londons canals!
- ❑ [www.woodland-trust.org.uk](http://www.woodland-trust.org.uk) for information on woodlands nationwide.
- ❑ [www.enaturenotes.org.uk](http://www.enaturenotes.org.uk) to create your own nature diary.
- ❑ [www.naturedetectives.org.uk](http://www.naturedetectives.org.uk) for childrens wildlife sheets and activities.
- ❑ [www.foresteducation.org.uk](http://www.foresteducation.org.uk) for details of forest education schemes nationwide.
- ❑ [www.efct.info](http://www.efct.info) details of a local Epping Forest Conservation Charity organising walks and events.

## 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](mailto:glenn.mulleady@harlow.gov.uk)

Website: [www.harlow.gov.uk](http://www.harlow.gov.uk)

## Opening Times

Parndon Wood Summer opening hours are as follows from 1<sup>st</sup> April-30<sup>th</sup> September 2008:

Saturdays	9am-6pm
Sundays	9am-6pm
Tuesdays	7-9pm
Bank Holidays	9am-6pm

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

## Wildspace Events August

### **Wednesday 6th- National Play Day. Two sessions 10am-1pm and 2pm-4pm**

Come along to Parndon Wood for a day of fun for all the family including Den Building, Bug Hunting, Pond Dipping, Mini Assault Course, Blindfold Trail. Suitable for 0-17 year olds.

### **Saturday 9th- Acorn Group 9am-12pm**

Join the staff at Parndon Wood to carry out some conservation work and see what wildlife lives amongst the trees (suitable for 12-16 year olds).

### **Tuesday 19th- Discover the world of Owls Evening 7-9pm**

Join the warden at Parndon Wood to learn more about Owls and take part in some themed craft activities.

### **Monday 25th- Animal Olympics, Parndon Wood 12p-4pm**

Come along to Parndon Wood to participate in the Animal Olympics. Events include: Animal masks, sack races, assault course etc..

### **Sunday 31st- Town Park Show 12-6pm**

Come along to the Town Park to the Natural Environment marquee and join the Nature Reserve team in some fun crafts for all the family.

For further information on events please contact [glenn.mulleady@harlow.gov.uk](mailto:glenn.mulleady@harlow.gov.uk) or view [www.harlow.gov.uk](http://www.harlow.gov.uk)