



Wildspace!

News from Parndon Wood Nature Reserve

February 2010

e-news

Welcome to the February 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



Tawny Owl (*Strix aluco*)

This picture from Parndon Wood was taken by Paul Coyston. The Tawny Owl is usually a nocturnal bird of prey and hunts mainly rodents, usually by dropping from a perch to seize its prey, which it swallows whole.

The nest is typically in a tree hole where it can protect its eggs and young against potential predators

In this month's issue:

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

Greenteam Volunteers

On Wednesday 3rd February the Greenteam undertook a task at Netteswell Plantation opening up the ride network to improve access.

Back in 2009 Harlow Conservation Volunteers constructed a bridge across the Todd Brook improving access into the Plantation. The work of the Greenteam should hopefully now improve access from the bridge further into the wood.



Widened ride network

The increased sunlight now reaching the ground should improve conditions for a variety of flora species including primroses and bluebells.



Glade creation adjacent to path

Greenteam Tasks

February-March 2010

We will be meeting in late February to discuss a task programme for the summer/ autumn 2010.

Feb 17th – Marshgate Springs: reed cutting

Mar 3rd – Public Footpath clearance

Mar 17th – Latton Woods: pollard creation and scrub clearance

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

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

International Year of Biodiversity 2010

Brown hare

The brown hare can be found throughout England, but is most common in the open arable landscapes of Eastern England. Surveys have shown that the population has declined substantially in recent decades, probably as a result of changes to farming practices, though, thankfully, it has been more stable recently.

Latin name: *Lepus europaeus*

Population numbers: No accurate figures exist although it is estimated that there are about half a million brown hares in England.



Brown Hare

Where to see and when: Brown hares are nocturnal and spend the majority of the day in grassland depressions known as forms, venturing out at night to feed. Hares are widespread across England outside of urban areas, with breeding occurring between February and September. 'Boxing' hares, where females are fending off amorous males, are easiest to see during the spring.

What's being done:

Conservationists are undertaking detailed studies of the species to understand what the problems are and improve conservation programmes. Hare numbers are monitored and Environmental Stewardship is helping farmers to provide the habitat features and landscape diversity that benefits hares

Further information:

www.biodiversityislife.net

Half-term Fun with Forest Funtasia!

Parndon Wood

Join in a week of wild fun with natural art, den building, pond dipping, bug hunting and more! (week commencing 15th Feb)

• Monday 1pm-4pm

• Tuesday 1pm-4pm

• Wednesday 1pm-4pm

* Teddy Bears Picnic 1pm-2pm, please book

• Thursday 9.30am-12.30pm

• Friday 9.30am-12.30pm



These sessions are FREE as a part of the Forest Funtasia Project. Children and their families are welcome to drop in anytime. Please note children must be accompanied by an adult.

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

Forest Funtasia



LOTTERY FUNDED

Harlow
Council

Working together for Harlow

February Events

Acorn Group

Saturday 13th, 9am-12pm

Join the staff at Parndon Wood to help carry out some conservation work and learn more about what wildlife lives in the woods. (Suitable for 12-16 year olds).

Love Birds and Love Bugs Day

Sunday 14th February, 1pm-3pm

Parndon Wood Nature Reserve

Remember to love the birds and bugs too this valentine's day with bird spotting, bug hunts and arts and crafts. Or how about enjoying a romantic stroll around your local woodland this and steal a kiss beneath the magical kissing tree!

Forest Funtasia Week

15th – 19th February

Parndon Wood Nature Reserve

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

Monday-Wednesday 1pm-4pm and Thursday-Friday 9.30am-12.30pm

Dusk Walk

Tuesday 2nd March, 4.45pm-5.45pm

Parndon Wood Nature Reserve

During Nature Club there will be an exciting dusk-walk to explore the woodland and its creatures that come out at dusk.

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



February 2010

Parndon Wood open Sundays 11am-4pm

Nature Club 3.45-5.45 Term Time only

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN
1	2 Night Walk 4.45-5.45pm	3 Greenteam 10am-3pm	4	5	6	7 Winnie the pooh story time 1-3pm
8	9	10	11	12	13 Acorn Group 9am-12pm	14 Love birds and bugs 1-3pm
15 Forest Fantasia 1-4pm	16 Forest Fantasia 1-4pm	17 Greenteam 10am-3pm Forest Fantasia 1-4pm	18 Forest Fantasia 9.30am- 12.30pm	19 Forest Fantasia 9.30am- 12.30pm	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28