

Castle Point Wildlife Group



People working for a better environment

November 2017 Newsletter

Welcome to the latest newsletter from Castle Point Wildlife Group.

The biggest news is that at last the work on the flood bund in Westwood is just about completed and the main track is now once again open! The bridleway is also fully open. There is still some minor works that the Council need to complete and this includes tidying up the main track but it may well be a bit muddier this winter than before but everything should return to normal next year once everything fully dries out in spring and summer. The main track that now goes over the brook will eventually have a gate fitted (once we raise the funds for it) but in the meantime a temporary barrier will be in place however the pedestrian walkway bridge is of course open as before.

It has been a long project and one that has disrupted our activities but of course it is important that homes are protected. We hope the barrier is never actually needed in anger!!

While we have not been able to do much in Westwood we have been working hard at North Benfleet Hall Wood and all of the glades have been cut ready for the wildflowers to again come through next year. The paths have also been cut well back and the entrance from The Birches trimmed and cut. We still have a few tasks to complete such as some repairs to vandalised bridges!

So with access back to Westwood we have put together some work party dates and these are also published on our website and we hope to add additional dates:

Sunday 19th November - Westwood (Additional date!!)

Monday 20th November - Westwood

Monday 4th December - Westwood

Monday 18th December - Westwood

Monday 8th January - Westwood

Sunday 14th January - Westwood

Monday 22nd January - Westwood

Monday 5th February - Westwood

Sunday 11th February - Westwood

Monday 19th February - Westwood

Monday 5th March - Westwood

Monday 19th March - Westwood

All sessions start at 10am, meet outside our compound just down the track from the Rayleigh Road gate.

Additional dates will be put in place when volunteers come forward to run them. Tasks will be sorted out for each session. The Sunday sessions in January and February will be felling.

It has been very pleasing to see some new faces at our work sessions and we hope more members will come along and help us. Please make sure you bring a drink with you as even in winter it is essential to drink as the work can be hard!!

As many members will know we agreed to put in some memorial plaques to some members who regrettably passed away. We had hoped to make these from the wood from our coppicing works but despite several attempts this was not possible so we have now put in place some small plaques for Graham Ash and Jim Bishop and pictures of these are below.



Grahams plaque is in one of the glades in North Benfleet Hall Wood, and Joims is in his favourite area within Westwood.

We have also been lucky enough to be given a set of display boards from CAVS which we can use at the shows and events next year. These are not new but are in excellent condition and we thank CAVS for this.

Many members will know Tony Doveston the Council Park Ranger who is a great supporter of the group. Tony is currently recuperating from an operation and we wish him well and hope to see him back in circulation very soon.

If anyone wants any further information on any aspect of either North Benfleet Hall Wood or Westwood please do contact us and we will be very happy to try and help.

Neal Warren

Secretary -November 2017