

**THREE BROOKS NATURE CONSERVATION GROUP
NEWSLETTER - MARCH 2006**

Apparently spring is here... though the snow suggests otherwise. Which must mean that it's time for an

Annual General Meeting

Notice is hereby given of the Annual General Meeting of the Three Brooks Nature Conservation Group, to be held on **Thursday 27 April 2006 at 7.30 pm in the Woodlands Suite, Jubilee Centre, Savages Wood Road, Bradley Stoke.**

The suggested agenda plus the report on activity this year are included with this newsletter.

As usual the AGM includes the appointment of officers - positions for Chair, Vice-Chair, Treasurer and Secretary, plus two ordinary members, are all open. Existing officers can stand for re-election but this is also a chance for someone else to have a go if they are interested. Sharon has had to stand down from the committee due to other commitments - thanks to her for her contribution in the last few months. This means that even if all the existing officers are re-elected, we still badly need one or two others to bring the numbers up. Do have a think about this and speak to any of the existing Committee (Hannah, Steve and myself) if you want to find out more. It's a good chance to get more involved in the work of the group and is even quite interesting!

As well as agreeing a schedule of work for the next six months, we are also including an agenda item on how we run the workdays. If you've had any thoughts about how we might run workdays differently - perhaps you think they're too long or too short, or you aren't happy with the biscuit selection - then this is your chance to let us know.

Membership/Mailing list renewal

Membership renewal

Our Constitution states that membership should be renewed annually, just prior to or at the AGM. Accordingly, anyone who has completed a formal membership form will shortly be receiving a new one for the 2006-07 membership year. (If you have received this newsletter by post, the form should be included with it). Your contact details should be printed on the form, so you just need to check these, making amendments as necessary, and sign it. Signed copies should be returned to me either at the AGM or, if you can't attend it, posted to me to ensure that they arrive before 27th April - address below. If you haven't completed a form then you will not be eligible to vote at the AGM. If you have been on one of our workdays but haven't completed a form, and would like to become a member, then please let me know and I will send you a form to complete. If I do not receive your completed form by 27th April then I will assume you no longer wish to be a member of the group.

Mailing list renewal

I am also taking this opportunity to ensure that our general mailing list is up to date. This is to make sure that everyone who receives the newsletter and updates is still interested in doing so. This is particularly important if you receive this by post as we don't want to spend money on stamps and envelopes trying to contact people who aren't interested in what we do - plus we don't want to be annoying you with unwanted mail!

Therefore, if you are on the e-mail list, you will shortly receive an email from me asking if you wish to remain on the list - a simple Yes or No reply is all that is needed. If I receive no reply by 27th April I will assume this means No.

If you have received this in the post and you *do* wish to remain on the mailing list, then **please could you contact me by 27th April** - send a postcard to the address below, leave a message on my mobile (0777 3050619) stating your name clearly, or if you have access to email and wish to switch to the email list then contact me at e.creasey@hefce.ac.uk. If you don't want to stay on the list then you need do nothing - I will remove any non-responders from the list after the AGM.

If you are a member and you return a signed form then I will assume you wish to be on the mailing list!

My address for signed membership forms or mailing list renewal is: Mrs E Creasey, 26 Hawkins Crescent, Bradley Stoke, Bristol BS32 8EH.

April and May workdays

A reminder that on **Saturday 1 April** we will be doing some digging and drainage work in the marshland between Brook Way and Sherbourne's Brake. We haven't worked in this area before and it

isn't generally accessible to the public (Paul will bring boards and waders), so it's a good opportunity to get a privileged look at one of the reserve's more isolated areas. Meet at the corner of Brook Way and Baileys Court Road at 10 am.

On **Saturday 6 May**, Paul is away, so we won't have access to his equipment and insurance. Accordingly we have decided to join up with Patchway Conservation Group – some members of this group joined us in Sherbourne's Brake in March and this will be an exchange visit! The group will be doing some fencing work in an old orchard next to Primrose Bridge (the footbridge that goes over Bradley Stoke Way next to The Common East, just down from the Somerfield roundabout). Meet at the Common East end of Primrose Bridge at 10 a.m. You may want to bring your own tea/coffee as I'm not sure whether Patchway has a kettle.

Wildlife recording

As some of you will know, following our walk last September with John Mortin of the Bristol Regional Environmental Records Centre (BRERC), we have now got copies of the recording forms produced especially for the reserve and they are available to download from our website - www.three-brooks.info. The forms include aerial photographs of the reserve overlaid with Ordnance Survey grid squares, so you can pinpoint exactly where you see wildlife or plants. BRERC are very interested in getting records from our area, so next time you're out for a walk, why not note down what you see and let them know - instructions for returning records are on the forms.

Seating on the reserve

Is there anywhere on the reserve where you feel it would be nice to sit down and look about you for a few moments? We are looking at getting some more seating, but need to know where to put it. Send me your ideas and we'll see what we can do.

BTCV Associated Group status

We have decided to join BTCV as an Associated Group. This gives us formal access to BTCV support and some good deals on tools, insurance and training. If you are interested in taking part in any BTCV activity then you may get a discount as a member of an associated group - I have all the information if you wish to see it.

Bradley Stoke Community Festival, Saturday 10 June

This may seem a bit of a way off, but please put the Community Festival in your diaries. We will once again be running a stall at this event to publicise the reserve and the work of the group, and we will be doing some activities for children such as colouring and making insect boxes. The Committee will do the planning and preparation but we would really appreciate some help running the stall on the day - if enough people volunteer then we would only need an hour from each person. Set-up is from 10.30 to 12 and the event itself is 12 to 5.

Hope to see lots of you at the AGM.

Emma