



**Three Brooks
Nature Conservation Group**
<http://www.three-brooks.info>

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Newsletter - March 2008

Dear all

It's been good to see so many of you out on the reserve at recent workdays. The group has really consolidated over the last year and we have a strong "core" membership. 2007-08 was a particularly eventful year for us what with receiving a substantial grant under the Breathing Places scheme, the long-term projects of the tool store and website finally coming to fruition and, recently, winning an award - more on that later.

Annual General Meeting

This is to give formal notice that the Annual General Meeting of the 3BNCG will take place on **Wednesday 30 April at 7.30 pm at the Ramada Grange Hotel, Winterbourne**. A location map is at http://www.ramadajarvis.co.uk/files/maps/Ramada_Grange.pdf - or is included with this letter if you've received it in the post. The hotel is very kindly letting us have the room for free. The final agenda will be handed round on the night, but will include the following items:

- Minutes of last meeting and matters arising
- Secretary's report on activity 2007-08
- Treasurer's report 2007-08
- Appointment of officers
- Workday and event planning
- Update on Breathing Places grant.

If you have any items you would like to put on the agenda, then please let me know by **23rd April**.

As usual the AGM includes the appointment of officers - Chair, Vice-Chair, Treasurer and Secretary, plus two ordinary members. Existing officers can stand for re-election but this is also a chance for someone else to have a go if they wish – remember we still don't have a Vice-Chair at all! If you'd be interested in getting more involved in the work of the group, then do speak to any of the existing Committee (Hannah, Steve, Sara, Dave and myself) if you want to find out more.

Membership/Mailing list renewal

Membership renewal

Our Constitution states that membership should be renewed annually. Those of you who have completed a formal membership form will therefore need to renew your membership (if you wish to!) at or prior to 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. Membership is free and gives you the right to vote at the AGM.

For existing members who have received this newsletter by post: your form should be included with it. If the details are correct, please could you sign the form and return it to me at the AGM, or if you can't attend, post it to me to arrive before 30th April.

For existing members who have received this newsletter by email: then I will shortly be sending you an individual email with the form attached. Please could you check the details and send me an email back, stating that you would like to renew your membership for another year, and letting me know if any details have changed. (This is a new paper-saving measure which avoids printing forms out!)

If you haven't completed a form or reaffirmed your membership by 30th April, then you will not be eligible to vote at the AGM. If I do not receive reaffirmation of membership by 30th April then I will assume you no longer wish to be a member of the group.

Mailing list renewal

I also take this opportunity annually 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 - we don't want to be annoying you with unwanted mail.

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

If you are NOT a member, then:

- if you are on the e-mail list, the email to which this is attached asks if you wish to remain on the list for this year - a simple Yes or No reply is all that is needed. If I receive no reply by 30th 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 30th April - send a postcard to the address above, leave a message on my mobile stating your name clearly, or if you wish to switch to the email list then send me an email. My contact details are at the top of the letter.

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.

Three Brooks LNR wins award

The Three Brooks LNR has won a "Planting Places" award from Sustainability South West. The reserve was one of ten examples of urban greenspaces in the region. The awards aim to showcase greenspaces that are making a variety of contributions to sustainability - from supporting biodiversity and local food/energy production to improving community well-being and inclusion.

John Morris and Dave Baker collected the award (a nice carved plaque) at a ceremony in Weston on 6th March. The award is a testament to everyone who works so hard on the reserve and on its behalf, including John at South Gloucestershire Council, Paul and Jenny from BTCV and especially all you lovely volunteers.

April and May workdays

Our next workday will be on Saturday 5th April and we'll be planting wildflowers in the community orchard that we planted last winter. Meet at the leisure centre at 10 am (or go straight to the orchard if you know where it is).

The workday on Saturday 3rd May keeps being changed! – however we are now pretty sure that we will be doing stream clearing. Meet at the lake at 10 am (not at the leisure centre as previously stated).

Plus don't forget we have a dawn chorus walk booked on 17th May with our friendly local ecologist Rupert Higgins. I will confirm a start time with Rupert (check on the website for the latest information) but it will be very early!

Hope to see lots of you soon at a workday or the AGM.

Best wishes,

Emma.