



## **Noak Bridge Nature Reserve Conservation Newsletter - June 2000**

### **Project News : Access for all !**

In the last newsletter I introduced how Basildon Council and the Society would like to address a number of key issues relating to the conservation and amenity value of the Nature Reserve. I am pleased to announce that since then the Cleanaway Pitsea Marshes Trust has agreed to fund the project because of its obvious benefit to both wildlife and visitors to the Reserve.

In my last article I also invited anyone who has thoughts or views on the project to contact me – that offer still stands! Your committee has been involved in planning the project and agree that it will make everyone's visit to the Reserve more safe and enjoyable without changing its wonderful appeal.

It is planned for much of the work to be carried out by contractors in August and September. However, some of the less strenuous work will be done by the Conservation Work Party, so if you would like to get involved come along and join us.

I have drawn a simple plan to show what will be done to complete the project (see next page). All of the works will be in accordance with recognised guidelines for access for less able visitors. The paths will be level and firm and will be constructed of material sympathetic to the character of the Reserve.

If you would like to contact me about this, or any other subject to do with the Reserve please feel free to telephone on 01277 624553.

**Luke Bennett  
Countryside Ranger  
Basildon District Council**



## **Badgers**

On 8 March 2000, The Noak Bridge Nature Reserve Society met at 7:30 in Kenilworth House for an enjoyable and entertaining talk and slide show on "Badgers". Mr Tony Doveston from Castlepoint Borough Council has worked extensively with Essex wildlife and badgers in particular for many years. He gave us a very lively and interesting insight into the life of these protected animals and we were surprised to learn that they are still hunted and used in the cruel sport of badger-baiting in certain parts of the country. They are social animals living in setts of varying sizes and like many other species of wildlife their habitats are disappearing, forcing them to live much nearer to populated areas. Mr Doveston's style was informal and friendly, encouraging members to participate in the discussions. It was a very successful evening, rounded off with light refreshments. We hope to invite Mr Doveston again in the future and we would like to see many more of our members coming to these fascinating talks.

## **Wildlife**

Where has our Spring sunshine gone? Still we did have two days of sunshine at the beginning of April, and as a result the following animals were found - 5 adders (4 female and 1 male), a large number of butterflies (small tortoiseshells, small and large whites, red admirals and peacocks), bumble bees, wasps and lizards. All were found near the ponds which are now very active - plenty of great crested newts etc. On May 13-14th, a cuckoo was heard, and during the month more butterflies emerged. We now have a wide variety of birds on the reserve, and a blackcap, a whitethroat and a sparrowhawk have been seen.

## **Memberships**

Mr Ralph Chapman is our Membership Secretary and he is pleased to report a current membership of 73 households (143 members). He is active in searching out new members and if you or your friends have any questions about membership, please call him at 531333 or call Betty at 531365. Membership renewals are now due for members who joined in June/July 1999. Ralph Chapman, Betty Haynes or Janet Bircham will be calling on you in June for your contributions, or you may pay at the Annual General Meeting, 21 June. From June 2001 all memberships will be renewed in June each year.

## **Village Fete**

Look out for our table at the Village Fete on Sunday 11 June.

## Work Parties

Our 31 March work party installed seventeen bird-nesting-boxes in remote parts of the reserve. It wasn't long before birds were investigating. On April 28 the Spring Clean resulted in the removal of 5 bags of rubbish. It has been noted by the Ranger and members that litter is regularly thrown over garden fences into the reserve. Homeowners should be aware that this is an offence. All members are invited to join the work parties 10:00 am – 12.00 noon on the ~~Last~~ Friday of each month.

## Work Party Program for June- August 2000

- |                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| <b>June 18th</b>   | <b>Summer Warblers</b> – A countryside event at Noak Bridge.   |
| <b>June 30th</b>   | <b>Step Maintenance</b> – We will be giving the two sets of steps on the Reserve a 'service' to keep them safe for all visitors.   |
| <b>July 28th</b>   | <b>'Pond Dipping'</b> – The Reserve has some wonderful ponds that are full of life. We will carry out a survey to see what is lurking below the surface. This is done without getting into the pond! |
| <b>August 25th</b> | <b>Fencing</b> – The fences on the Reserve are there for visitor safety and to protect delicate habitats. We will do some maintenance work on them where necessary.                                  |

**NOTE:** *This program is provisional and may need to change due to weather conditions etc. Contact the Countryside Ranger if in doubt.*

## Annual General Meeting

The first Annual General Meeting of The Noak Bridge Nature Reserve Society will be held on Wednesday, 21 June 2000 in Kenilworth House, Noak Bridge at 7:30 pm. We hope to see all of our members at this important meeting (a Formal Agenda and Proposed Constitution is attached). We hope to keep business activities to a minimum and arrange a quiz later in the programme. We urgently require new Committee Members! If you would like to serve or would like to nominate another member to serve (with their permission, of course!) either come along to the meeting, or if that is not possible, contact one of the Committee Members. Your Reserve needs you! Present Steering Committee Members willing to stand again are Betty Haynes, Ralph Chapman and Janet Bircham. We would like to have at least six committee members!

Betty Haynes (Chair) – 01268 531365  
Janet Bircham (Secretary)  
Ralph Chapman (Treasurer) – 01268 531333  
Luke Bennett (Ranger) - 01277 624553

Email: [noakbridge.nrs@ukonline.co.uk](mailto:noakbridge.nrs@ukonline.co.uk)  
Website: <http://www.cyberturf.com/noakbridgenr/NBNR.htm>

# **NOAK BRIDGE NATURE RESERVE SOCIETY**

## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**Wednesday, 21 June 2000**

**Kenilworth House**

**7:30 p.m.**

This is the first Annual General Meeting of the Noak Bridge Nature Reserve Society, formed in June 1999. There being no prior Minutes or Matters Arising, the meeting shall proceed in accordance with the following agenda:

### **AGENDA**

1. Chairperson's Report - Mrs. Betty Haynes
2. Treasurer's Report - Mr. Ralph Chapman
3. Membership Secretary's Report - Mr. Ralph Chapman
4. Adoption of Articles of Constitution\*
5. Election of Committee Members\*
  - (a) Chairperson
  - (b) Treasurer
  - (c) Membership Secretary
  - (d) General Secretary
  - (e) Communicator
  - (f) Events Coordinator
6. Quiz(prizes)

\*Nominations were requested in the May Newsletter.

\* A copy of the Constitution was attached to the May Newsletter

## **The Constitution of**

### **1. NAME.**

The name of the Society shall be the Noak Bridge Nature Reserve Society (hereinafter referred to as 'the Society')

### **2. OBJECTS.**

- (a) To participate with Basildon District Council in the management and conservation of Noak Bridge Nature Reserve.
- (b) To give information, advice and assistance to the officer appointed by Basildon District Council.
- (c) To encourage public interest and participation in the management and conservation of Noak Bridge Nature Reserve.
- (d) To promote public interest in Natural History and Conservation.

### **3. MEMBERSHIP.**

Membership shall be open to all who share the interest and objects of the Society, as stated in Clause 2.

### **4. MEETINGS.**

The Society shall meet at least once in every year, which meeting shall be the Annual General Meeting and on such other occasions as shall be deemed necessary. The Annual General Meeting shall elect, by simple majority of all fully paid-up members present, a Chairman, a Secretary, a Treasurer and such other Officers as it may from time to time determine.

### **5. GENERAL COMMITTEE.**

The general management of the affairs of the Society shall be directed by a General Committee, which shall meet not less than four times a year and which shall consist of :-

- (a) A Chairman, who shall be the Chairman of the Society.
- (b) The remaining Honorary Officers of the Society
- (c) Six representatives of the individual members of the Society entitled to vote at meetings of the Society elected by and from among themselves at the Annual General Meeting.
- (d) Co-opted Members appointed by the General Committee who shall be members of the Society entitled to vote at meetings of the Society provided the total number co-opted members does not exceed one-third of the total membership of the General Committee as defined in (a), (b) and (c) above.
- (e) Advisory Members who shall not be entitled to vote at meetings of the Society General Committee.
- (f) At least one, but no more than three, representatives of Basildon District Council.

All members of the General Committee shall retire at the Annual General Meeting but shall be eligible for re-election. Any Officer shall serve for no longer than three consecutive years, after which he shall retire and shall be ineligible for re-election in that post for a period of one year.