



Woodsman

The Booker Common and Woods Protection Society

www.bcwps.org.uk

Registered Charity No.289871

Newsletter 80 Autumn 2014



Booker Common Community Conservation Day

Thursday 6th November from 10:00am

Meet at Booker Memorial Hall

Work is starting on our project to improve the Commons path network and you are invited to join Committee members, the Chiltern Rangers and the Green Thursday Conservation volunteers to help us as we get started.

We will be making the Common more accessible for all and improving it for wildlife: coppicing, removing non-native invasive plants such as Laurel, thinning trees, creating hotspot areas for butterflies and other invertebrates and much more.

Come and join us for an hour or stay all day.

Tools & gloves will be provided

Tea, coffee and biscuits too - but if you're staying longer, bring a packed lunch.

Stout footwear is essential and please dress for the weather...

If you have any questions or would like further information please contact:
info@chilternrangers.co.uk / 01494 474 486 or contact@bcwps.org.uk / 01494 449035



Chiltern Rangers and volunteers clearing a fallen tree at Penn Wood

Annual Subscriptions

We will be collecting the annual subscriptions again soon. You can however pay by standing order if you wish. Either, complete the form and send it to you bank, or set it up directly with your bank on line, using our account details below. Please also let our Treasurer know for his records at Treasurer@bcwps.org.uk.

Standing Order

Name _____

Address _____ Post code _____

Your bank _____

Branch Address _____ Post code _____

Account Number

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Sort Code

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Please pay to Barclays Bank Plc. for the account of

Booker Common and Woods Protection Society Acc No 20177806 Sort Code 20-40-71

The sum of £_____ on December 5th 2014 and the same sum each year until further notice.

Signature _____ Date _____.

Success with our Wild flower project has inspired a photographer

Back in April four volunteers met to prepare a patch on the common for wild flower seeds, spurred on by the vision of a colourful display by the summer. Unfortunately there was no option but to start by removing the existing turf completely as grass very easily outgrows more delicate flowers.

The ensuing unsightly round patch of bare earth remained without signs of growth for a month or two and was not at first encouraging. Nevertheless the tiny seedlings did eventually gain strength and height and by July we were very encouraged to see a good show of flowers. Now at the beginning of October the bright gold of the corn marigolds can still be seen above the surrounding grass. Once seeds have formed the flower stalks can be cut down and over winter there will be nothing much to see, but that is the nature of summer flowering plants. It is not a garden after all.

After such a success we now plan to widen the area. More turf will need to be removed this autumn and with the help of yellow rattle, which is known to be parasitic to grass, we hope to keep the flowers blooming next year.

The second year will be as much a challenge as the first, but we do hope you will have enjoyed the small patch of colour on the common and feel it worthwhile. We hope the bees have noticed it too!

Sally Jay – BCWPS Committee Member

Commons Photographic Workshop at Booker Memorial Hall on 14th August 2014



Inspired by the wild flowers, I chose to take part in the photographic course led by a very talented and friendly local professional Hayley Watkins, who has herself been inspired by the Chilterns and the Commons for her own work.

Hayley was happy to give up her time to show us amateurs what we needed to do with our cameras, be they SLRs or Happy Snappers and how to take better and improved works of art; well, snaps for most of us really.

Introductions completed we trundled off with our assortment of cameras and started looking at flowers, or people on benches, the trees and well anything that inspired us. We had to think “What makes this shot special?”. Be selective; use our imagination and patience and think about what we had seen on Hayley’s gallery board and how she came to take that shot.

For half an hour we enjoyed the beautiful sunny afternoon, each heading off in our own space and direction to choose our subject. Because we were on my home turf I decided to focus my attention on the wild meadow.

The wild meadow flowers are wonderful and the timing perfect as they were in full bloom. The colours and sizes made an excellent subject. I deliberately used this colourful and flourishing part of the common that promotes butterflies, bees and possibly rare species; an important ingredient to any common, wood or field.

Re-grouping, we discussed our subjects, compared photos, checked the fine detail and discussed what made us take each shot and how to improve it. We considered composition: background, colour and subject placement. We practised arranging objects using the thirds rule! We moved onto colour and lighting and basic camera craft.

I thoroughly enjoyed my day as I’m sure did everyone else and now I take fewer snaps and more decent shots, reducing the number that need to be dumped and the hours trawling through to find the half dozen worth keeping.

Thanks must go to the professional who gave up their time and to Rachel Sanderson from the Chilterns Conservation Project who organised this fantastic event on our common

Sally Blackman – BCWPS Committee Member

To enjoy Sally’s picture in colour, please go to our website. www.bcwps.org.uk

And if you would like to know more about Hayley’s work: <http://www.hayleywatkinsphotography.com>