

Welcome to the 2019/20 programme of the Working Parties organised by the Friends of Paxton Pits Nature Reserve and supported by Huntingdonshire District Council Countryside Services and Aggregate Industries Ltd.

The work programme continues with many of our old favourites but with an emphasis on improving habitat on the Reserve for our warblers, including our famous but declining nightingales. Recent research highlighted at a nightingale conference earlier this year has given fresh insight into habitat requirements and it is now clear we need to work on a significantly larger area for successful habitat improvement. We will also continue to work on maintaining viewpoints and access routes for the various bird surveys we complete and maintaining the bird ringing net runs.

**Please feel free to join us in these varied wildlife management activities.**

- No previous experience is needed.
- We'll show you how to do the work.
- Range of tasks to suit all abilities, energies and ages.
- Meet new friends who also enjoy wildlife and the open air.
- Find out how management benefits wildlife.
- Tools, safety equipment and refreshments are provided.

Thursday 12th September- **East Scrub**  
Nightingale habitat improvement.

Sunday 15th September- **East Scrub**  
Nightingale habitat improvement.

Sunday 29th September- **Boughton Lodge**  
Clearing footpath up to the Lodge and WeBS viewpoints into Washout Pit.

Sunday 6th October- **East Scrub**  
Nightingale habitat improvement.

Thursday 10th October- **Island Pit**  
Clearing viewpoints for WeBS.

Sunday 20th October- **Hayling Reedbed**  
Willow management in the reedbed.

Sunday 3rd November- **East Scrub**  
Nightingale habitat improvement.

Thursday 14th November- **Sanctuary**  
Managing the tree growth along the bird ringing net runs.

Sunday 17th November- **Southoe Brook**  
Clearing a section of the bank.

Sunday 1st December- **Orchid Enclosures**  
Cutting back growth to encourage orchid growth and other work in the Sanctuary.

Thursday 12th December- **Pumphouse Pit Q**  
Clearing willow from the Drain banks.

Thursday 9th January- **East Scrub**  
Nightingale habitat improvement.

Sunday 12th January- **East Scrub**  
Nightingale habitat improvement.

Sunday 26th January- **Pumphouse Pit Q**  
Clearing willow from the Drain banks.

Sunday 9th February- **Invertebrate Bank**  
Clearing regrowth to maintain habitat.

Thursday 13th February- **Hayling Reedbed**  
Willow management in the reedbed.

Sunday 23rd February- **Sanctuary**  
Managing the tree growth along the bird ringing net runs.

Sunday 8th March- **Bird survey routes**  
Clearing and waymarking breeding bird survey routes.

Thursday 12th March- **Bird survey routes**  
Clearing and waymarking breeding bird survey routes.

Sunday 19th April- **TBA**  
Work depends on the season's progress.

Sunday 7th June- **Himalayan Balsam**  
Removing Himalayan Balsam by the river.

Sunday 5th July- **Ragwort**  
Pulling Ragwort or more Himalayan Balsam.

## HEALTH & SAFETY

Some of the precautions we need to take are obviously dependent on what we are doing and on the site itself. However there are a number of precautions that are universal and are listed below.

- Make sure your anti-tetanus is up to date.
- Wear suitable clothes and footwear.
- Only attempt what you are personally capable of. Stop when tired.
- Be aware of what's happening around you; allow plenty of room.
- If you don't know how to use a specific handtool ask the leader.
- Check for uneven ground, steep slopes, wet ground, dense ground vegetation, accumulated debris, trenches and holes.
- Always lift and carry safely. Use arms and legs and not the back.
- Remember- do not work alone.



## NOTES

All work parties start at 9:30 a.m. at the Visitor Centre and finish around 1:00 p.m.

Work parties with a (Q) notation are accessed through the quarry so you need to be at the Visitor Centre by 9:30 a.m. to pick up transport. There is no other access to the quarry.

Bad weather alert system. We operate an email alert system where a note will be sent a day or two before the work party if there is a probability of cancellation.

If you have any questions concerning this programme, please contact Mike Thomas (01480 387749) or Trevor Coughlan (trevcoughlan@hotmail.co.uk).

If you no longer wish to receive information regarding the Sunday work parties organised by the Friends of Paxton Pits Nature Reserve, please email [trevcoughlan@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:trevcoughlan@hotmail.co.uk) stating that you wish to unsubscribe from the Friends' work parties communications. For further information see our website.

For more information on the Friends and Paxton Pits Nature Reserve visit our website [www.paxton-pits.org.uk](http://www.paxton-pits.org.uk) or check us out on Facebook at Paxton Pits Nature Reserve

Friends of Paxton Pits Nature Reserve is a charity registered in England and Wales, No. 1125221 and is funded entirely by its membership and fundraising activities

## Work Party Newsletter and Programme

September 2019-July 2020

