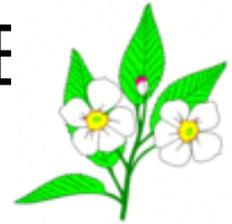


# NATURE SOCIETY NEWSLETTE



March 2017

Issue 2

NATURE SOCIETY  
Making a real difference

As many of you may have seen by now the Nature Society has nearly taken over the Mercia Mercury this month. This is great, as it highlights how much the Marina wants us to take ownership of our natural surroundings, improving bio-diversity and giving nature a chance to thrive.

So, what has been happening? The team who have been working in the woodland for a while has seen some new recruits. Many thanks to Nancy and Ian for their help.



As spring gets more underway we will stop working on the trees and saplings as they burst into

growth. However, the woodland floor still needs some work. At the moment areas of it are overwhelmed by Hogweed. Yes, this is a very good plant for a lot of insects but too much of it is carpeting the woodland floor and blotting out the chance of other plants thriving. So, we have been clearing a small area in which to create a wildflower glade. We now have a range of native woodland plants ready to go in once the ground is prepared. They have been specially selected for the conditions and include such things as Wood Sage, Wood Avens, Creeping Bellflower and more besides. Sadly, while we have been working in the woodland we have found bottles, dog poo bags, empty cans, full cans! plastic bags and ashes. Unfortunately some of the ashes had been dumped right on top of our Woodruff plantings from last, they are no longer visible and should have been showing by now. Something we need to remember is wild plants do not like fertile ground and will not grow. The poorer the soil the better. Empty cans and bottles are death traps to small mammals.

There is any area close by Lapwing which has been identified as suitable for wildflowers to thrive. Looked into planting there but the thinking is that wildflower seed will give a greater coverage and longer flowering period as well as a broader range of flowers. Happily, there has been a really good response from people wanting to take ownership of this for sowing and looking after. The seeds have already been bought and will be provided at the right time for sowing and advice given if needed. This is exactly what the Nature Society is about. Well done all those who have come forward.



We are looking into the possibility of a Dawn Chorus Walk. How successful it would be at

the Marina is questionable as the noise from the A38/A50 is considerable. We have the option of going over to Willington Woods which would be good as woodland birds are apparently the most varied and vocal. What is needed most of all is someone who is knowledgeable enough in bird song to lead us. If anyone at the marina feels they can help on this please, please let us know. Failing this we could always book onto an organised walk. This will involve travelling and a VERY early start. All these walks take place in May. Again any interest please let us know as booking is essential.

## COMING UP

4th Working in woodland 10.30 Kingfisher/Jay car park

17th Butterfly Talk by Derbyshire Butterfly Conservation 19.00 Willow Tree