

NATURE SOCIETY NEWSLETTER



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Issue 1

NATURE SOCIETY
Making a real difference

February 5th saw the launch of the new wildlife group at the Marina. However, instead of being a 'group' it will be known as 'The Nature Society'

Why society? A society is a 'community with common aims & interests' so a good name for those who have a love of nature and a desire to help improve biodiversity and conservation

This must surely apply to all those who choose to live on a boat in the middle of a recognised conservation area. Do we not comment on the first snowdrops we see each year, or get pleasure in hearing the robins sing? These things give a lift to our mood even if only fleetingly. Built into us all is a link to our wild heritage, even if we choose to ignore it.

So the idea behind 'The Nature Society' is for all to get enjoyment from living in a wildlife rich area. Giving a little bit of time to improving the biodiversity, encouraging and helping with the conservation of our local wildlife. If your circumstances do not allow getting hands on, no matter, the idea is that you can enjoy what is being done or better still if you have knowledge of certain aspects of nature/wildlife then help all those who also have an interest by sharing that knowledge. There is already Bee Goup and a Mammal Group but the idea of a 'Nature Society' is NOT to have to join certain groups, sign up or get more involved than you meant to. The Nature Society is open to all, as indeed are the Bee and Mammal groups. Come along, join in, learn and most of all have fun and make some new friends.

Much is being planned, including a Butterfly Nursery, and Nature's Highway.



A field corner will be planted/sown up with specially selected seeds and

plants to provide what our butterflies need in the way of nectar and grasses for them to lay their eggs on. Butterflies are in desperate decline and need as much help as they can get.

Natures Highway involves rejuvenation of a very old hedge, including filling the gaps with native hedgerow shrubs and sowing a belt of native wildflowers and grasses in a metre wide strip along the front. This will create a rich habitat for insects, mammals, birds etc. We aim to change a mainly barren area into something special.


People can also get involved in light woodland work either here or at Willington Woods with CRT.

So much has been lost in Derbyshire alone, 94% of flower rich meadows, marsh & swamps drained, 20% of local wildlife sites declining. Nature needs us and we have a fantastic opportunity to Make A Difference.

Weekly butterfly counts are being undertaken soon and some volunteers to help would be great. Help & training will be given. Bee transects (walks) also, and results will be submitted to either butterfly or bee conservation.

Small mammal recording, Red Mason Bee project, hopefully a dawn chorus walk and lots more things are planned.

We are recommended to aim for 40mins exercise a day so why not do that by helping out with any of the projects and improving your health at the same time

 as making new friends, having a good laugh (also good for health), and really making a difference.

Keep eyes open for future events or let the office know if you can help at all, especially if you have knowledge you can share about birds, insects, reptiles etc.

There will be lots of info on the Mercia.Marina website under wildlife.