

Main Work Party Reports

Sep 01 - Jary's Meadow - Vegetation cut on Aug 27 rowed using hay turner. South bank vegetation cut using brush cutter also some bramble encroaching on to a path.

All cut vegetation in Grassy Hollow - south bank - marsh area - bramble area - seat area and the path network raked and cleared to spoil heaps and fire sites. The fire site near the entrance gate burnt.

Sep 15 - Walsham Fen - Area G mown on 10th Sep - raked and cleared to spoil heaps. Also cleared remaining vegetation in Area D/E from previous WP and Fleabane cut on 10th Sep.

Sep 29 - Buckenham Woods - Vegetation mown on 22nd Sep rowed using hay turner. Cut vegetation in steps area - a strip by the main path - bramble area - main seat area - and other areas around perimeter by the path and on the causeway, all raked and cleared to spoil heaps and fire site. Fire site by steps burnt.

Oct 13 - Howes Meadow - Area C mown on 04 Oct raked and cleared to spoil heaps.

Oct 27 - Walsham Fen - Area A1 -a 5metre strip and 50% of Area F raked and cleared to spoil heaps. 6 individual damaged boardwalk slats repaired and a start was made with a new section of boardwalk to replace a collapsed section near the stream

Additional Work Party Reports

Aug 31 - Howes Meadow - Area A - West fire site burnt

Sep 02 - Lingwood Pond - West compartment - 60% of reed mown

Sep 06 - Lingwood Pond - Completed the raking of cut reed into a pile at the SW corner ready for removal.

Sep 07 - Walsham Fen - Area G willow tree is now completely felled and mostly cleared to wood pile.

Sep 10 - Walsham Fen - Area G mown

Sep 22 - Buckenham Woods - Steps area - places in main area - around the seat and corners of main area and causeway, mown

Sep 28 - Lingwood Pond - All cut reed removed from the pond and taken to the field by the village hall for Bonfire Night

Oct 04 - am - Blofield Church - All 4 conservation areas mown-2 mowers used
pm - Howes Meadow - Area C mown

Oct 07 - Howes Meadow - Area A - Cut reed on spoil bank burnt.

Oct 09 - Blofield Church - All 4 conservation areas raked and cleared to spoil heaps- This task carried out by the Great Yarmouth Green Gym.

Oct 11 - am - Howes Meadow - Area C - cut vegetation rowed using hay turner.
pm - Southwood Church - Conservation area mown

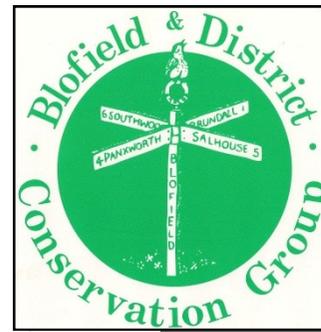
Oct 17 - Southwood Church - Conservation area raked and cleared to spoil heaps by the Bure Valley Conservation Volunteers

Oct 20 - Walsham Fen - Area A1- 4 meter strip from boardwalk to pond dip platform; Area F and flattened area of rush in area G mown.

Oct 23 - Lingwood Church - Conservation area mown

Oct 24 - Jary's Meadow - West meadow fire site burnt.

Oct 25 - Lingwood Church - Conservation area raked and cleared



BADCOG NEWS.

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2018—BADCOG Chairman's Report

As our AGM has come around again I think we can look back on 2018 as another successful year.

On the whole, Work Party numbers have held up well and we've succeeded in keeping on top of the management of our sites.

Our two big wetland sites, leased from Norfolk County Council are, of course, a challenge. Looking at Howes Meadow, last Autumn we struggled to clear the North side, partly due to wet weather. However, by Christmas all was done and the waterway was open and clear. In January, before the cold weather set in we planted 116 mixed native shrubs, in three rows, to screen the new wooden fence. Despite the Summer drought almost all are thriving, helped by the moist soil, part shade from the fence and, of course good planting!

Cutting and clearing up is still in progress but with a Summer cut of the North side and help from Gt. Yarmouth Green Gym, we've done better than in 2017. They also helped with clearing the first cut of Blofield Church yard and are due to return for the second cut in October. We offered two new rakes but they say they have nowhere to keep tools! They are funded by Yarmouth and are doing well when compared to much bigger Norwich, where their Green Gym seems to have folded.

We would like to do more at Walsham Fen, but are doing what we can and next year hope to have help from the Bure Valley group, who at present are only clearing Southwood Church yard for us. The other problem at Walsham Fen is the boardwalk which was largely put down by a contractor in 2006, but is already rotting and cracking up, so there will be some carpentry work this Winter!

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The management of all our sites continues as in previous years. A video of our efforts was made at both Hemblington and Blofield churches and in July some of us were invited to the Norfolk Biodiversity Partnership Awards evening at Carrow Abbey, Norwich. These were given to the Cremers Meadow Group, Hemblington and Blofield, all of which we've helped, so BADCOG was highlighted several times during the ceremony.

Since this is our 35th AGM I would imagine that Clarks Wood, across Shack Lane and overlooking Howes Meadow, was planted by us some 33 or 34 years ago. As Mr. Cole has now purchased the wood and the land to the East we got a group Tree Preservation covering the wood, served by Broadland District Council.

On 2nd December 2017 we enjoyed our annual winter walk, around the Coltishall area, finishing at the Rising Sun for refreshments.

In June we were invited by the South Yare Wildlife Group to an open day at Ducan's Marsh, a SSSI site and part managed by them. We walked from Claxton and were not disappointed, It's a lovely little remnant of fen containing rare plants-well worth a visit next year for those who missed it.

BADCOG had a stand again at the Wild About Norfolk day at Easton College. Tony tells me it's the last one, which seems a pity, but numbers were down and he thinks it's run its course!

We enjoyed winter talks again, including one from our old friend and former member, Tony Howes, who brought his latest excellent photos.

Hans also gave a talk and superb pictures of a trip he'd made to Cuba. As always, thanks to all who have worked hard to make this another successful year.

Best wishes, Ernest.

WORK PARTY DATES

All work parties start at 10:30am, finishing at 1.00pm.

10th November—Strumpshaw Stone-pit

24th November—Snowdrop acre

8th December—Jary's Meadow.

29th December—Railway Wood.

BADCOG Evening Meetings/Talks

November 9th – The Broad Beat Team Paul Bassham & Amy Barrel (The role of policing the Broads)

January 11th – Paul Metcalf – The life of Bees

February 8th – Dr. Ian Bedford (Head of Entomology at the John Innes Institute)
Research findings of Butterflies & Moths in your garden.

Talks and meeting take place every 2nd Friday of the month (October—April only), in the Methodist Chapel, Chapel Road Lingwood starting at 7.30pm.

Refreshments are available.

BADCOG WINTER WALK

Saturday 15th December

A local walk around the village of Strumpshaw.

Meet at the Shoulder of Mutton PH at 10.30am

A visit to the pub is expected after the walk for food and drinks if you wish.

Come prepared.

Last time we did this walk it was very wet!

Firewood Rhyme

Beech wood fires are bright and clear
If the logs are kept a year.
Chestnut's only good they say
If the log it's laid away.
Make a fire of elder tree
Death within your house shall be.
But ash wood new or ash wood old
Is fit for a queen with a crown of gold.

Birch and fir logs burn too fast
Blaze up bright and do not last.
It is by Irish folklore said
Hawthorn bakes the sweetest bread.
Elm wood burns like churchyard mould
E'en the flowers are very cold.
But ash green or ash brown
Is fit for a queen with a royal crown.

Apple, pear and cherry too
They do burn both hot and true,
Their flowery scent so very sweet
Delights your nose and warms your feet.
But ash logs all smooth and grey
Buy up all that come your way
Burn them green or burn them old.
They're worth their weight in royal gold.

Animal navigation

Animal navigation is the ability of many animals to find their way accurately without maps or instruments. Birds such as the Arctic tern, insects such as the monarch butterfly and fish such as the salmon regularly migrate thousands of miles to and from their breeding grounds, and many other species navigate effectively over shorter distances.

Dead reckoning, navigating from a known position using only information about one's own speed and direction, was suggested by Charles Darwin in 1873 as a possible mechanism. In the 20th century, Karl von Frisch showed that honey bees can navigate by the sun, by the polarization pattern of the blue sky, and by the earth's magnetic field; of these, they rely on the sun when possible.

William Tinsley Keeton showed that homing pigeons could similarly make use of a range of navigational cues, including the sun, earth's magnetic field, olfaction and vision.

Ronald Lockley demonstrated that a species of small seabird, the Manx shearwater, could orientate themselves and fly home at full speed, when released far from home, provided either the sun or the stars were visible.

Several species of animal can integrate cues of different types to orientate themselves and navigate effectively. Insects and birds are able to combine learned landmarks with sensed direction (from the earth's magnetic field or from the sky) to identify where they are and so to navigate. Internal 'maps' are often formed using vision, but other senses including olfaction and echolocation may also be used.

The ability of wild animals to navigate may be adversely affected by products of human activity. For example, there is evidence that pesticides may interfere with bee navigation, and that lights may harm turtle navigation.



Bird Migration

A compass sense has been demonstrated in birds; that is, they are able to fly in a particular constant direction, regardless of the position of the release point with respect to the bird's home area. It has also been shown that birds are capable of relating the release point to their home area and of determining which direction to take, then maintaining that direction in flight. The navigational ability of birds has long been understood in terms of a presumed sensitivity to both the intensity and the direction of the Earth's magnetic field. It has also been suggested that birds are sensitive to forces produced by the rotation of the Earth (Coriolis force); however, no sense organ or physiological process sensitive to such forces has yet been demonstrated to support this hypothesis.

Experiments have shown that the orientation of birds is based on celestial bearings. The Sun is the point of orientation during the day, and birds are able to compensate for the movement of the Sun throughout the day. A so-called internal clock mechanism in birds involves the ability to gauge the angle of the Sun above the horizon. Similar mechanisms are known in many animals and are closely related to the rhythm of daylight, or photoperiodism. When the internal rhythm of birds is disturbed by subjecting them first to several days of irregular light-dark sequences, then to an artificial rhythm that is delayed or advanced in relation to the normal rhythm, corresponding anomalies occur in the homing behaviour.

Two theories have been formulated to explain how birds use the Sun for orientation. Neither, however, has so far been substantiated with proof. One theory holds that birds find the right direction by determining the horizontal angle measured on the horizon from the Sun's projection. They correct for the Sun's movement by compensating for the changing angle and thus are able to maintain the same direction. According to this theory, the Sun is a compass that enables the birds to find and maintain their direction. This theory does not explain, however, the manner in which a bird, transported and released in an experimental situation, determines the relationship between the point at which it is released and its goal.

The second theory, proposed by British ornithologist G.V.T. Matthews, is based on other aspects of the Sun's position, the most important of which is the arc of the Sun, that is the angle made by the plane through which the Sun is moving in relation to the horizontal. Each day in the Northern Hemisphere the highest point reached by the Sun lies in the south, thus indicating direction; the highest point is reached at noon, thus indicating time. In its native area a bird is familiar with the characteristics of the Sun's movement. Placed in different surroundings, the bird can project the curve of the Sun's movement after watching only a small segment of its course. By measuring maximum altitude (the Sun's angle in relation to the horizontal) and comparing it with circumstances in the usual habitat, the bird obtains a sense of latitude. Details of longitude are provided by the Sun's position in relation to both the highest point and position it will reach—as revealed by a precise internal clock.

Migrant birds that travel at night are also capable of directional orientation. Studies have shown that these birds use the stars to determine their bearings. In clear weather, captive migrants head immediately in the right direction using only the stars. They are even able to orientate themselves correctly to the arrangement of night skies projected on the dome of a planetarium; true celestial navigation is involved because the birds determine their latitude and longitude by the position of the stars. In a planetarium in Germany, blackcaps (*Sylvia atricapilla*) and garden warblers (*S. borin*), under an artificial autumn sky, headed "southwest," their normal direction; lesser whitethroats (*S. curruca*) headed "southeast," their normal direction of migration in that season.

It is known, then, that birds are able to navigate by two types of orientation. One, simple and directional, is compass orientation; the second, complex and directed to a point, is true navigation, or goal orientation. Both types apparently are based on celestial bearings, which provide a navigational "grid."