



BADCOG NEWS.

No 216: November 2021

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BADCOG and the 'Great Big Green Week' Tony McKie

Back in September of this year, BADCOG participated in the 'Great Big Green Week'. The aim of this weeklong national event was to celebrate how communities are taking action to tackle climate change and protect green spaces.

BADCOG's involvement was two-fold. Firstly, to highlight our conservation work around our parishes, we had a stand/display in Lingwood Village Hall on Saturday 25th September which was the main day of the event. Our second contribution was a 5-mile themed walk around Lingwood and Strumpshaw. A map was available from the Village Hall which guided people around eleven locations where BADCOG has carried out wildlife conservation management. An information board at each location briefly explained some facts about each of the sites; four of which were hedgerows planted by BADCOG volunteers. Three of these hedgerows are now well established and part of the landscape, whilst the other was only planted last year and requires a few more years to add value to the countryside.

The history of hedgerows can be traced back a thousand years or so, before barbed wire was used to provide a stock-proof barrier for domesticated livestock such as sheep, horses, and cattle. However, after WWII there was a shortage of home-produced food and farmers were paid to rip out many thousands of miles of hedgerows to increase the land available for crops and food production. This action was to ultimately have a harmful impact on wildlife, and today hedgerows are being replanted.

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However, this is at a slow rate and incurs a high resource cost to try and reverse the devastating decline in the UK's biodiversity, now one of the worst in Europe!

Anyone who enjoys a walk in the countryside knows the benefits of a good hedge, particularly on a winter's day when they provide shelter from a biting wind or a bit of shade on a hot summer's day. However, hedgerows are important for our wildlife in several ways. First, they provide a wildlife corridor, enabling a safe passage for animals to move from one habitat to another. They also provide both food and shelter for many mammals, insects, and birds. The berries of the hawthorn, guelder rose, rowan, bird cherry and others, are a rich and important source of food for birds during the winter. In the spring a thick hedge provides a haven for nest building and for birds to rear their young on insects found in the undergrowth. Also in the spring, the young tender leaves found in a hedge are just what a caterpillar needs to feed upon before developing into a butterfly or a moth. When planting a hedge, BADCOG plants a mixture of native shrubs which always includes Buckthorn. This is the food plant for the caterpillar of the stunning Brimstone butterfly, the first butterfly normally seen in the spring. Mammals such as the wood mouse and bank vole will also use hedgerows to seek shelter and to feed on berries, and on the nuts of the hazel which is another traditional hedge plant. A mixed hedge is also much more attractive, particularly in the autumn when there is a wide range of different autumn colours.

Put together, the four hedgerows planted by BADCOG volunteers are only 800m in length, but despite this, they are of great benefit to the local environment and to the wildlife they support. So next time you are out walking the local footpaths take a little time to look at these hedgerows as you may find something interesting, even if it's just an old bird's nest.

Note: This article was written for the 'Parish News' which covers the Parishes of Lingwood, Strumpshaw, S. Burlingham and Hassingham & Buckenham.

Broadland Country Park

Hans Watson

Earlier this year Broadland District Council announced the opening of the new Broadland Country Park, to the North of Horsford. Much of this new Country Park was formerly known as the Houghen Plantation and was already a popular area for nature lovers and dog walkers. There are a number of public footpaths that run through the park and surrounding area. The Park consists of 140 acres of mixed woodland, pine woodland, heath, and fen. There are three areas that are fenced off, with no public access to these as cattle and sheep are periodically used to control invading scrub.

The Norfolk and Norwich Naturalists' Society have been asked to advise on management procedures and undertake surveys of species over a three-year period and monitor changes that take place. Already, it is apparent that the work already undertaken, has been successful, and four pairs of Nightjars and a pair of Woodlarks are thought to have nested this year. Other scarce birds that have nested include Crossbills, Hobbies and Buzzards. There have also been quite a few exciting, rare plants, fungi and insects found this year, including the scarce Yellow Birdnest (*Hypopitys monotropa*) a perennial flower that has no chlorophyll and parasitizes fungi. Also discovered in May were several colonies of Bog Beacon, (*Mitrula paludosa*) a bright yellow club-shaped fungus that grows in swampy areas.



Yellow Birdnest

The Broadland Country Park is a place well worthy of a visit by anyone who loves nature and walking in beautiful surroundings. There are



Bog Beacon

plans to improve access, improve pathways, and provide more facilities, that will make the park more visitor friendly. The main entrance to the park is on the Haveringland Road.

Tree Health and The Sentinel Treescapes Project

The Sentinel Treescapes Project from The Tree Council aims to look at concerns regarding tree health. It will use volunteer tree wardens as monitors

•**Background** - There has been a rapid escalation of tree pests and diseases.

- Ash Dieback has been in the UK since 2004 and is now catastrophic. Entire woodlands are now being lost.
- The total cost to the UK has been estimated to be £15 bn.
- Many trees are now being felled on safety grounds.
- Diseased trees tend to explode when being felled.
- Much work has been carried out by Norfolk County Council, in particular by the Highways Department.
- The Tree Council is developing a set of guides.

Sentinel Treescapes Project.

- Record what happens inside and outside trees.
 - State of the art technology.
 - Tree Talkers (sensors) will be strapped to the trunks of trees and will detect and record what is happening inside the trees.
 - Drones and satellite data will also be used by the project.
 - Tree Wardens will be the “eyes” of the project.
 - The study sites are all around Burlingham.
 - Norfolk County Council owned woodland.
 - Trees along the British Rail Norwich to Great Yarmouth Wherry Line to be accessed via Norfolk County Council tenanted farmland.
 - Trees along a local highway.
- All necessary personal protection equipment (PPE) (eg hi-viz jackets) and full insurance will be provided by the Tree Council.

The Tree Wardens' Role.

- 150 trees are to be covered.

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- 3 clusters of 50 trees per cluster.
- 20 trees in each cluster will have Tree Talkers.
- That will equate to a total of 60 Tree Talkers.
- Trees will be predominantly oak and ash.
- All trees will have identity tags.
- Trees will be between 20 and 50 cm diameter at 1.5m.
- Tree Talkers to be strapped to the main boles of the trees at between 1.2 and 1.5 m.
- Tree Wardens should report and cases of damage to the Tree Talkers resulting from vandalism, theft, squirrels, weather, etc
- The project plans for monthly inspections but events/data may necessitate extra visits.
- The number of visits may be reduced during winter months.
- Data to be collected will include the following.
- Time of coming into leaf.
- Time of full leaf.
- Dead leaves.
- Condition of canopy.
- Lesions, cracks and damage.
- Fungi.
- Drought.
- Root exposure/damage.
- Data will be recorded on a mobile 'phone app and/or paper.
- Feedback on ease of inspection.
- Work in pairs.
- One experienced Tree Warden to pair with an inexperienced Tree Warden.
- Tree Warden site visit and training during week commencing 17 or 24 May.
- Monthly tree assessments commence at end of May 2021 and should end at the end of July 2022.
- Monthly on-line catch-up meetings.
- 3 or 4 site visits with Tree Council for training.
- Project end August/September 2022.

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How will this help trees and woodlands?

The more knowledge we have the more equipped we are to find an effective method for monitoring spread and impact of tree diseases, which may allow earlier detection of future pests and disease before they become established in UK woodlands.

Models will also be developed to explore the efficiency and cost-effectiveness of different designs of sensor networks and to identify the ideal combinations of and distribution of sensors and observations for future use in

monitoring larger areas and more locations.

In the case of the TreeTalker sensors attached to trees, if they allow us to reliably monitor health and stability of individual trees, they may allow such trees, showing earlier stages of disease, to be retained for longer before they are felled for safety reasons – this potentially allows time for evidence of resistance or recovery to show, meaning resistant individuals that could be important seed sources can be identified, as well as allowing longer preservation of trees that are important for cultural / wildlife reasons.

The picture shows a "kitted out" tree in Burlingham Woods.



Important Membership renewal!

BADCOG Membership subscriptions are now due.

The cost for a annual membership remains the same as last year:

£5 per single membership or £10 per family membership

You can pay by Bank transfer to:

Lloyds Bank. Sort Code: 30 99 97. Account No: 00642538.

Name: Blofield and District Conservation Group.

Or forward any cheques made payable to BADCOG to:

**Frances Milliken, 45 Heathway, Blofield Corner Road,
Norwich NR13 4RS**

Winter Walk

Saturday 11th December 2021

Meeting time 10.30am

Location: Broadland Country Park, Haveringland Road.

Meeting point: Car Park Notice Board

Grid Ref: TG181 175 (nearest post code NR10 4DF)

A walk around this new country park.

We will be meeting up in the Chequers Pub, Hainford (NR10 3AY) after the walk (about 12.15) for drinks and a pub lunch for those who would like to partake.

Check website closer to the date to check details!

BADCOG Work Party Dates

6th November - Strumpshaw Stonepit

20th November - Snowdrop Acre

4th December—Walsham Fen

18th December—Railway Woods

8th January 2022—Lingwood Pond

Work parties start at 10.30am and finish at about 1pm.

All welcome!

Chalk Streams

The Chalk streams of England are some of the world's rarest and most beautiful rivers.

Our chalk streams are unique - with most found in southern England (and a few in France). Their pure, clear, constant water from underground chalk aquifers and springs, flowing across flinty gravel beds, make them perfect sources of clean water - and ideal for many wild creatures to breed and thrive. They provide a perfect haven for wildlife - for species like the otter, kingfisher and trout and salmon.

At the evening meeting on Friday 12th November at 7.30pm at the Methodist Chapel, Lingwood there will be a presentation on Chalk Streams.

Main Work Party Report

Aug 28 – Howes Meadow – Area C – raked cut vegetation into rows- cleared approx 25% to spoil heap/fire site.

Sep 11 – Walsham Fen – Area G – Raked and cleared to spoil heap all 50% cut on 06 Sep.

Sep 25 – Jary's Meadow – Path network, area below seat and E meadow 10 metre strip from main gate, raked and cleared to fire sites. Burning carried out at site by main gate and site in W meadow.

Oct 09 – Howes Meadow – Area D – Raked and cleared to E fire site

Additional Work Carried Out

Aug 09/10/11/12/13/16/18/19/23/24/25/26 – Howes Meadow – Area A – between 2 fire sites and paths cut on 5 Aug. Raking and clearance of cut vegetation to fire sites carried out. Task completed on 26 Aug.

Sep 05 – Lingwood Pond – W edge of pond by road – small area in pond mown. The 1metre strip around pond left for wild flowers, mown

Sep 04 – Howes Meadow – Area A- Burning carried out at E and centre fire sites. Area C – raked and cleared 2 of the rows from 28 Aug WP.

Sep 05/07/08 – Howes Meadow – Area C – Continued raking and clearance. Largest pile at W end area A burnt.

Sep 06 – Walsham Fen - Area G - N side 50% mown.

Sep 07 – Cremer's Meadow – Large area mown.

Sep 09 – Howes Meadow – Area C – Final raking and clearance carried out.

Sep 12 – Lingwood Pond – N side of pond by road – some sallow coppiced

Sep 13 – Howes Meadow – Area A – Burning carried out at W end fire site. Wood chips added to owl box.

Sep 15 – Lingwood Pond – The 1 metre strip for wildflowers around the pond raked and cleared.

Sep 18 – Jary's Meadow – W end of W meadow – further scything of bracken carried out

Sep 18 – Walsham Fen – Nettles on section of boardwalk by stream scythed.

Sep 20 – Jary's Meadow – E meadow 10 metre strip from main gate to W meadow- path network and area below seat mown.

Sep 27 – Howes Meadow – Areas B & D and path N of stream in Area A, mown. Remaining reed from stream between areas C/D and bridge to area A scythed

Sep 28 – Blofield Church – Conservation areas NE NW SE SW mown

Sep 30 – Howes Meadow – Area B – Raked cut reed plus mud from stream to higher ground.

Oct 05 – Blofield Church – Conservation areas NE NW SE SW raked and cleared to spoil heaps by the Gt Yarmouth Green Gym.

Oct (during week 11-15) – Buckenham Woods – Main open area cut by local farmer.

Oct 16 – Buckenham Woods – Steps area mown.