

Report for Information

Report to Mousehold Heath Conservators
12th September 2008

Item
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Report of Head of Community Services

Subject Report on recent events and activities on Mousehold Heath

Purpose

To update the conservators on recent survey, management work and events carried out at Mousehold Heath.

Recommendations

That the Conservators note the contents of this report

Financial Consequences

There are no financial consequences associated with this report.

Corporate Objective/Service Plan Priority

The report helps to achieve the corporate objective to provide safe and healthy neighbourhoods.

Contact Officers

Paul Holley - Natural Areas Officer
Simon Meek – Green Spaces Manager

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Background Documents

None

Report

1.0 The presence of the second Mousehold Heath Warden has, in addition to providing extra patrolling capacity, resulted in an increase in several areas of activity so far this year included guided walks, events and talks to groups. In addition, the Mousehold Defenders organised a significant number of practical work parties during the late winter months and have continued to be active during the summer period. The combined results have seen the highest level of activity at Mousehold for many years, with benefits for the heath's landscape and wildlife and importantly more opportunities for people to become involved.

2.0 The following is not intended to be an exhaustive list, but is a summary of survey and site management work and events that have been held between February and August 2008.

- 23 February 2008: Guided walk as part of Open Forum consultation on Mousehold Heath Management Plan, led by Malcolm Bryant; 20 participants.
- February/March 2008: Mousehold Heath Defenders, led by Malcolm Bryant, held a large number of practical work parties involving scrub clearance etc.
- 9 April 2008: Putting up bat/owl boxes, City Care, Will Stewart and Mousehold Defenders – 3 owl boxes and 3 bat boxes.
- 16 April 2008: School Assembly, Mousehold Infants School, both Mousehold Wardens. Introducing wardens to the school and promoting the Heath.
- 21/22 May 2008: Environmental education activities with Mousehold Infants School, led by the Mousehold Wardens. Involving bug hunting and den making in the Fountain Ground and Zaks area.
- May 2008: Dawn Chorus guided walk, led by Barry Madden, Mousehold Defenders; 12 participants.
- 12 June 2008: Discover Insects activity day for Mousehold Infants School, led by Mousehold Wardens.
- 10 June 2008 and three other dates: bracken control tasks, BTCV.
- 18 June 2008: Bat Walk, Norwich Bat Group and Mousehold Defenders, 6 participants.
- 19 June 2008 & 08 July 2008: bracken control tasks, Will Stewart and Mousehold Defenders.
- June 2008: Guided History Walk, Margaret Bush and Mousehold Defenders – 25 people
- 21 July 2008 a local volunteer with a particular interest in heathland management began assisting the wardens one day a week with practical tasks on the Heath.
- 16 July 2008 and three other dates: bracken control work, BTCV Green Gym

Project.

- 25 July 2008: Guided Walk & Moth Trapping, led by Norfolk Adult Education (Peter Walton) and Will Stewart; 18 participants.
- 11 August 2008: Guided History & Wildlife Health Walk, led by Norwich Fringe Project and Will Stewart, 45 participants.
- 12 August 2008: Put up 37 bat boxes, Alan Locke (volunteer, who also donated the boxes) and Will Stewart. A further 15 bat boxes are yet to be made and put up. All the boxes will be surveyed at the end of October by a representative of Natural England.
- 22 August 2008: Moth Trapping Evening, organised by Barry Madden/Mousehold Defenders & Mousehold Wardens; 12 participants.
- 29 June 2008 & 24 August 2008: Brass Band concerts in bandstand, organised by Norwich City Council and Wherry Brass Band; approx. 80 people attended the two concerts.
- 27 August 2008: Bat Walk: led by Norwich Bat Group and Will Stewart; 27 participants.
- 18 August 2008 & 19 August 2008: heathland management work with Norwich Union volunteers, led by Emma Penfold (Norwich City Council) and Will Stewart; 21 participants.
- An ongoing problem with a “flasher” on Mousehold Heath was successfully resolved and a thank you received from the police (as below), acknowledging some successful joined-up working. “All the help received was greatly appreciated, and all the hard work and effort of everyone involved really contributed to the flasher being caught and charged for several incidents that occurred on Mousehold Heath. ““I would like to draw attention to the Mousehold Defenders, the neighbourhood wardens, and Mousehold wardens Nigel Hales and Will Stewart, for all their assistance, and members of the public who gave valuable information.”
- Events already planned for the autumn period include a Fungal Foray, regular work parties organised by the Mousehold Defenders, Norwich Union staff undertaking a days heathland conservation work and a further work party involving Royal Bank of Scotland volunteers.