

Main Work Party reports.

2nd January—Lingwood Pond— Annual work party. Clearance of large sallows from NW corner of pond. Chainsaw used to cut larger branches and 4x4 used to pull out of the water. Sallow then cut to smaller size for removal to Council shredding area by trailer. Vegetation along north side of pond also cut back from pavement. The southern hedge; only the side trimmed with hedge trimmer. Pond sign and PC sign cleaned.

16th January—Howes Meadow—Pollarded 2 willows and a small leafed lime, in addition to a small willow on north side of stream. Sallows on east side of meadow trimmed back and a small area of boundary hedge top trimmed. All cut vegetation taken to fire sites.

30th January - Jary's Meadow— Bank cut with brush cutter, inside of hedge cut with hedge trimmer, loppers and bow saws. Scythed around apple trees. Blackthorn and bramble cut back on northern side of meadow with brush cutter. All cut vegetation raked and cleared to fire sites.

13th February—Walsham Fen—Reeds around ponds and vegetation alongside stream cut with brush cutter. Old cut reeds laying alongside boardwalks and other cut reeds missed by Fen Harvester, raked and cleared to spoil sites. Overhanging branches over boardwalk cut back and sallow coppiced close to pond.

27th February—Tree Planting- Pedham—25 oaks planted along roadside verge, Pedham Road, Panxworth. 24 replacement trees planted in Peters Wood, Lingwood.

Additional work carried out.

9th January—Lingwood Pond— Completed unfinished work from main work party. Cut top of hedge and brambles encroaching from hedge into grassy area on south and east side of pond. Ivy on silver birch in SE corner cut. Removed all cut vegetation from this work party and that left from main work party.

4th February—Jary's Meadow—Fire site at main entrance to meadow burnt.

Work Party Dates 2016

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

12th March—Buckenham Woods. Mowing, raking, & clearing.

19th March—Holly Lane Pond. Annual tidy-up.

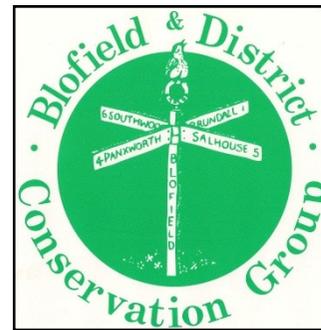
2nd April—Jary's Meadow. Mowing, raking & clearing.

23rd April—CWS Walsham Fen. Repair of boardwalk.

14th May—CWS Howes Meadow. Mowing, raking & clearing.

21st May—Buckenham Woods.

A good turnout at our two CWS is requested as there is always plenty to do.



BADCOG NEWS.

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Should we be feeding wild birds?

Perhaps one of the least widely understood mechanisms of population change is the role that disease plays. An important part of population dynamics strategy is to increase our understanding of the impact that diseases can have.

Traditionally it has been felt that by putting out birdfeeders and food on bird tables man was helping the avian population to survive the winter and in some measure mitigate the loss of natural food as a consequence of man- made habitat degradation. This seemed to be ever more important as even so called common birds were in decline in our gardens.

Recently however it has become evident that rather than arresting this decline man's well intentioned efforts have been exacerbating the problem by encouraging birds to congregate on feeders and bird tables where they come into contact with infection from other birds. The principle infection that has so far been identified is *Trichomonas*.

Trichomonosis:

Trichomonosis is the name given to a disease caused by the protozoan parasite *Trichomonas gallinae*. It has been recorded in a number of garden bird species and is widely acknowledged to be the causal factor in the rapid decline of the British Greenfinch population. It was responsible for the death of perhaps half a million birds in 2006 alone. The disease is also known as 'canker' when seen in pigeons and doves, and as 'frounce' when seen in birds of prey. It has been known as a disease of cage birds for some time. The disease is spread by saliva from infected individuals but maintaining good garden hygiene can help.

Species affected:

Although known in pigeons, doves and birds of prey for some time, the disease came to prominence in summer 2005, when it was first noted in British finches. Epidemics of the disease occurred in 2006 and 2007, with smaller scale mortality events noted in subsequent years. Greenfinches and Chaffinches are the species that have been most frequently affected, but the disease has also been documented in other garden bird species, including House Sparrow, Dunnock, Great Tit and Siskin.

Pathology & disease spread:

Trichomonas typically causes disease at the back of the throat and in the gullet. Affected birds show signs of general illness (lethargy, fluffed-up plumage) and may show difficulty in swallowing or laboured breathing. Some individuals may have wet plumage around the bill and drool saliva or regurgitate food that they cannot swallow. In some cases, swelling of the neck may be evident. The disease may progress over several days or even weeks.

The trichomonad parasite is vulnerable to desiccation and cannot survive for long periods outside of the host. Transmission is most likely to be through contaminated food or water, e.g. where a bird with difficulty swallowing regurgitates food that is then eaten by another individual. *Trichomonas gallinae* is a parasite of birds and does not pose a health risk to humans or their mammalian pets..

What you can do:

Follow sensible hygiene precautions as a routine measure when feeding garden birds and handling bird feeders and tables. Clean and disinfect feeders and feeding sites regularly. Suitable disinfectants that can be used include a weak solution of domestic bleach (5% sodium hypochlorite) or other specially-designed commercial products. Always rinse feeders thoroughly and air-dry before re-use. Rotate positions of feeders in the garden to prevent the build-up of contamination in any one area of ground below the feeders. Empty and air dry any bird baths on a daily basis. Cont next page.....

GLOBAL WARMING?

Is this an exceptional winter or is global warming a reality rather than a myth? The photos show snowdrops in Snowdrop Acre taken on 09 Mar 1996 (left) and 05 Feb 2016 (right).

In the 1970's we lived near Grimsby and the earliest we ever had daffodils out was April 17th. This year in our garden they were starting to flower in January. We even have the odd cowslip out now.

A second robin appeared very early in February and the blue tits have been doing house-keeping on the box since Christmas. If this weather continues I suspect the ducks from the village pond will be pairing up and looking for a local garden to nest in. Not ours we hope!

There must be other members who have had interesting things happening in their gardens at this time of year. Tony Bowyer.



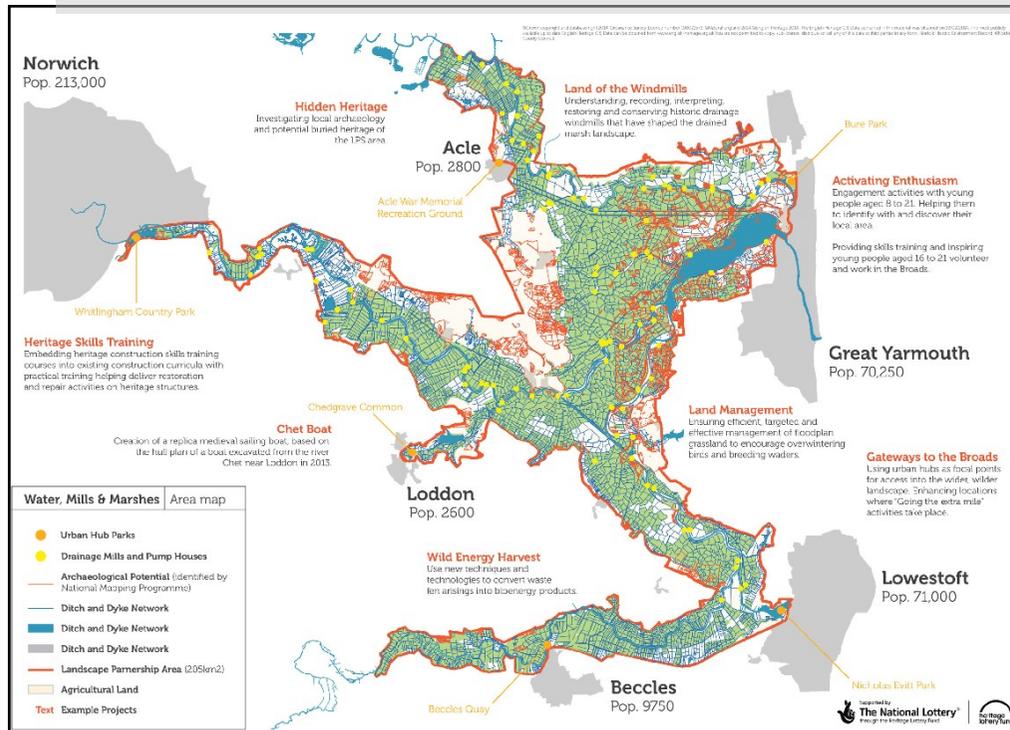
Solution to crossword in last issue.

- Across: 1. Beangeese 3. Toes 5. Turnstone 7. Eyri
8. Turtledove 9. Nightjar 11. Acorns 14. Black
15. Swan 18. Eel 19. Quill 20. Reedbeds 21. Cetti
22. Heather 23. Upping
- Down: 1. Bittern 2. Nonsuch 3. Three 4. Shrikes 6. Owl
10. Goldeneye 12. Canal 13. Ruddy 15. Skuas 16. Charm
17. Anting 21. Cap

The haven for birds that letters A - J spell out is: Slimbridge.

Thank you Frances.

Water, Mills and Marshes: the Broads Landscape Partnership.



BADCOG Talks.

11th March—Hans Watson—A talk about his visit to India.
8th April—"Sharing my wildlife memories" a talk by Brian Tubby
All talks are held on the second Friday of the month in the School Room of the Methodist Chapel, Chapel Road, Lingwood.
Start time is 7:30pm
Refreshments are available.

You may wish to consider stopping feeding if you have an outbreak of the disease at your feeding station, in an attempt to force the birds to feed elsewhere at a lower density (although in reality they may end up visiting another feeding station and possibly one where no hygiene measures are in place).

An alternative view:

The information above is a distillation of information from various websites particularly that of The British Trust for Ornithology (BTO). It is helpful and positive but I do wonder whether the advice is realistic. By analogy with public health measures it will only work if uniformly observed. It doesn't take many infected wells to spread typhoid. So perhaps we should stop feeding wild birds. The result would no doubt lead to a fall in numbers but that reduced population could stabilise and not fall prey to the next disease waiting round the corner. I acknowledge this is provocative and look forward to a lively debate in the next issue.

Submitted By David Pilch

Natura 2000

The Birds Directive and The Habitat Directive, part of the European Union's Directorate-General for the Environment Policy, were set up in 1979 and 1992 to ensure the conservation of a wide range of rare, threatened or endemic animal and plant species. Also, c.200 rare and characteristic habitat types were identified and 500 bird species naturally occurring in the EU.

Natura 2000 is a network of sites all over the 48 states of the EU. It ensures that appropriate legislation of the Directorate is carried out. In fact it is the biggest network of protected areas in the world – currently there are 25,000 sites covering one-fifth of EU land territory and a huge variety of landscapes.

This was brought to my attention recently by a newspaper article about Dibden Bay, on the western coast of Southampton Water – bordering the New Forest. Fifteen years ago, Associated British Ports wanted to build a huge deep-water depot there.

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It did not go ahead because this coastline is protected by these European environmental laws. These laws are more strictly applied than British laws which designate sites as SSI's, AOB's or even National Parks.

Martin Harper, Conservation Director of the RSPB, is reported as saying, 'These Directives, important pieces of legislation designed to protect internationally important wildlife and prevent any one Member State trashing the environment, have served us well.'

Many of the sites around us in Norfolk actually have Natura status.

One site in Norfolk is Winterton and Horsey Dunes. It is designated as a SAC (Special Area of Conservation) by the EU Directorate. The two primary reasons for its selection are the presence of specific habitats types- .nos.2150 Atlantic decalcified fixed dunes and 2190 Humid dune slacks. The non-primary reasons are the presence of nos.2110 Embryonic Shifting Dunes and 2120 Shifting dunes along the shoreline. More details about the classifications and lots more information about these complex laws is available on the website.

Therefore, the EU's role in protecting our environment is one of the factors to be considered at the In/Out EU referendum.

Nature does not stop at borders.

Beryl Ogden

Water, Mills and Marshes: the Broads Landscape Partnership.

Will Burchnall, our speaker at the February indoor meeting, is the Broads Authority's programme manager for this ambitious scheme of projects that will focus on the people, communities and heritage of the Broad's drained marsh landscapes. The project area will link the urban centres of Norwich, Great Yarmouth, Lowestoft, Acle and Lodden, following the course of the Yare, the Bure and the Waveney.

The delivery of the Water, Mills and Marshes project, due to start in 2018, is split into six full, interlinked and varied programmes. Very briefly the programmes are:

Programme 1: Interpreting the Landscape. This programme aims to celebrate life on the marshes; recording changes over time through photographs and paintings; collecting oral stories from people and presenting them in video, audio or written form; creating an archive of Halvergate life; providing training in heritage interpretation skills and using drama to interpret past, present and future landscapes, creating a play for a professional company to tour.

Programme 2; Exploring the Landscape aims to make the area more accessible and interactive, thus helping people to become familiar and better informed with their unique locality. Improving the footpath network, as well as working to bring habitats and heritage back to 'good' conditions, are intended.

Programme 3: Learning and Future Skills will give opportunities to be active in the conservation of the area and on heritage skills training in, for instance, the various traditional skills required to restore up to 25 drainage mills. Also, there will be activities to familiarise children with their local countryside; outdoor activities for the 13-21 age group including volunteering; and increasing knowledge of the Broads throughout the community.

Programme 4: The Historic Landscape will include making a replica of the medieval Chet boat excavated from the river in 2013; a community archaeology scheme investigating aerial photographs, WWII remains and waterways heritage. Creative activities will produce 'The Burgh Castle Almanac' and another project will publish 'A Guide to the Mills of Halvergate Marshes'.

Programme 5: Natural Landscapes will include advising landowners on land and water management to benefit breeding waders; recording the changes in agriculture and land management over the past 60 years; restoring Chedgrave Common and the dyke system of Upton Marshes; and advising landowners on sympathetic management for endangered molluscs.

Programme 6: Community Grant Fund will provide grants for local organisations within the boundaries, to carry out natural and heritage landscape projects.