

Forest Town Nature Conservation Group (FTNCG)



Wednesday 28th March 2012, from 7 pm, at the Forest Town Welfare

Present: Lorraine (Acting Chair); Dave (Acting Vice Chair); Shlomo (Acting Secretary); Josh (Acting Treasurer); Alyson (Acting Membership Secretary); Betty; Alan; Frances; Malcolm; Rose; Colin; Margaret; Christine; Ian; Barry; John; Lynda; Stuart; Michelle; Andrew; and Andy (Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust (NWT)) **[21]**

Apologies: Jeff (Rushpool Representative); Jo (Mansfield District Council (MDC)); Jackie; Megan; Helen; Ron; Susan; Pauline; and Val **[9]**

Recent sightings

Include: pheasants, sparrow hawk, deer, stoat, fox, several buzzards and numerous ladybirds. One of the buzzards may have been a rough-legged buzzard. We await confirmation. Please keep sending us your photos and sightings report forms.

Bird boxes

The Chair of the Maun Conservation Group, Colin Etches, kindly gifted us with half a dozen bird boxes – and these are available for use. Alyson agreed to take two.

Action: Shlomo to thanks Colin

Membership renewal

Most FTNCG members joined in February or March 2011, so membership renewals are now due (£2 per member). Thanks to all those who have renewed their membership.

Rushpool and Ramble thanks

Thanks to everyone who took part on the 3rd March Rushpool Open Space gorse prune and litter pick, including ASDA's Sue Derbyshire. Photos are now on our website, at: <http://foresttown.net/nature> Thanks also to those who attended the ramble to Save Sherwood Forest.

Forward programme for 2012

Forthcoming events include:

- Balsam pull from 10 am – 1 pm Saturday 28th April (weather permitting)
- Our first Annual General Meeting on Wednesday evening the 9th May at the Forest Town Welfare, from 7 pm in the Sherwood Room
- Our outing to the Attenborough Nature Reserve on Saturday 11th August, setting off from Forest Town at 10 am and returning to Forest Town around 4 pm. Those intending to join the August Attenborough outing are asked to please let us know as soon as possible. A volunteer from the Notts Wildlife Trust will be showing us around the site.
- The 29th May guided walk around Budby and the Major Oak is now fully booked. Names are being taken for a reserve list, should any places become available. Meeting time and place details will soon be sent to those who have booked.

Spa Ponds update and balsam pull

Although the suggestion was at the previous meeting to contact Councillor Martin Wright to explore the possibility of Nottinghamshire County Council purchasing the land that is for sale in and around Spa Ponds, the agents indicated that the time for bids has passed. Prior to the meeting, Andy explained that the April balsam pull will not include planting. Planting will be part of the following pull, presumably in May.

Time Team King John's Lost Palace episode

The episode of TimeTeam to be aired on Sunday 8th is to feature discovery of King John's Lost Palace at Clipstone. We are told to expect some significant revelations about the impact of the Plantagenet kings on our part of Sherwood Forest.

Nottinghamshire Biodiversity Action Group (Notts BAG)

Chris wrote to confirm that he has now added e-mail addresses for Dave, Barry, Rose and Jackie to his Notts BAG circulation list. Chris also mentioned that the NottsBAG partnership submitted a funding application to Defra for Invasive Non-native species (INNS) work in Nottinghamshire. If successful, various parts of the project could involve the Forest Town Nature Conservation Group. There will be an awareness raising part to the bid, featuring workshops across the county to raise the profile of invasive non-native species and the harm that they can do the natural environment and the importance of early detection. Secondly, the project aims to create a 'terrible ten' leaflet highlighting the ten most problematic invasive non-native species in Notts, and possibly also an invasive non-native species webpage will be added to the BAG website that will provide information on INNS as well as a location where new records can be submitted.

NottsBAG is also hoping to support and coordinate work on 5 catchments expanding the control work on Himalayan balsam started last year. This will include work to expand the project on the River Maun, including input from the Forest Town Nature Conservation Group. Even if the funding bid is not successful, NottsBAG is hoping to build on last year's work, so we've been asked to keep a record of volunteer hours spent undertaking Himalayan balsam control so that NottsBAG has an idea of the total time spent on this task during 2012. Chris noted that the seedleaves of Himalayan Balsam are already showing through in some areas (although Dave reported seeing only a very limited number of very small seedleaves so far at the Spa Ponds site). Volunteer work to control balsam has already begun on other catchments within the county. Chris supplied a couple of photos of Himalayan Balsam to remind us of how it looks before the true leaves start to appear. These have now been uploaded to the FTNCG website.

Thynghowe: The Story so Far

Stuart and Lynda delivered an inspiring presentation, telling us all about 'Thynghowe: The Story so Far' and giving details on how we can participate in the Thynghowe project. For details of forthcoming events in April and beyond visit: <http://www.thynghowe.org.uk/> and <http://www.facebook.com/pages/The-Friends-of-Thynghowe/104431872961971>

We are very grateful to Lynda, Stuart and the Friends of Thynghowe for sharing their amazing story with us!