

# Natural Woodhurst Newsletter

No 1 February 2010

## Introduction

Welcome to the first edition of a new newsletter. 'Natural Woodhurst' is the new name for 'Woodhurst In Bloom'. This name better describes the scope of the committee, which is to protect, maintain and enhance the natural areas of the village. The committee will continue to organise the planting and watering of the tubs, the Feast Week gardening competitions, and social/educational events. Every 2nd Saturday in the month we will run a hands-on activity, open to everyone in the village. Plus, we have a number of big projects planned, that you can read about below. In addition, we are able to provide support and advice to residents and land owners. This year, we will not be entering Anglia-In-Bloom. However, when we have progressed suitable projects, we may enter this and/or other competitions. It is very important that we have the support of the village in everything we do, so please let us have your thoughts on our projects, and any ideas of your own!

Karen Holley

Chairman, Natural Woodhurst

## How can you help?

### We need your help:

In the past Woodhurst in Bloom took responsibility for providing and maintaining floral planting around the village. This was funded by events such as plant sales and feast week events and also from donations and legacies. The problem was that the bulk of the planting were annuals which while very attractive were expensive and not sustainable. We would like to plant hardy perennials around the village and where possible drought resistant plants. This will reduce the need for villagers to water tubs and containers each evening. So how can you help?

1. Could you help look after a container?
2. We need plants. Do you have any spare plants or cuttings you could donate?

One of the major projects we have planned is to improve the area opposite the pond. The plan is to seed the back of the area with wildflowers and to plant native spring flowers where the Dogwoods have been removed.

1. We need to buy wildflower seed (about £50) it would be great if someone would like to sponsor it.
2. We need bulbs, if this spring you are thinning out your bulbs can you put some aside for us? We want snowdrops, bluebells, etc but we are trying to avoid daffs! We are also after cowslips and other spring flowers.

### Landshare?

Some of you will have heard of Landshare which is being promoted by Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall. The idea is that anyone with a garden or piece of land they can't manage allows someone else to garden it for them. No money is involved but they agree to share any produce. If anyone in the village would be interested

## Projects.

We have plans for several projects around the village which we will be applying for grants to finance. These include some major restoration work in the the Claypits conservation area, work on Ridges pond and replanting the hedgerow along Butt lane. If you would like to learn more about these and other projects please join us for a walk around the village at **3pm on 11<sup>th</sup> April** followed by tea at the village hall.

### Field notes



#### Fieldfares and Redwings

At this time of year you may see flocks of thrushes around the village. These are likely to be Fieldfare or Redwing. Fieldfare have a grey head and a speckled breast and sides, Redwing are less speckled, have a distinct stripe on their head and are red on their sides and under the wings. Both these thrushes are winter visitors from Scandinavia and Siberia. The name Fieldfare comes from the Anglo saxon felde-fare meaning traveller over the fields. If you want to encourage these thrushes into your garden plant berry rich bushes and trees such as hawthorn, rowan, and roses that produce hips.

### **Compost**

In the past we have obtained quantities of free compost from HDC. If you would like some later this year please let us know so we can identify the quantity we need to order.

Contact details:

Gary Davis, The Willows South st Tel : 825263 [gary.c.davis@mac.com](mailto:gary.c.davis@mac.com)  
Printed on 100% recycled paper

### *Diary dates*

**March 13<sup>th</sup>** Nestbox weekend, details to follow in next news letter.

**April 11<sup>th</sup> 3pm** meet Village Hall Natural history walk around village to explain our project plans followed by tea at the hall.

### Who are Natural Woodhurst.

Karen Holley - Chair  
Ruth Clark - Secretary  
Gary Davis – Treasurer/publicity  
Annabel Armstrong  
Andy Notman  
Phil Clark – Conservation/Grants  
Peter Collins  
Sally Barrett

If you would like to receive the Newsletter as email please mail me.

***Logo design. We are looking for a logo for Natural Woodhurst. If you would like to see you design on all our material please send them to us and we will pick a winner.***