



## NEWSLETTER

Summer 2004

### UPCOMING EVENTS



Monday 9<sup>th</sup> August

We are holding a **BBQ and Bat & Moth Watch** in the lovely setting of Portland Park, in Kirkby. Come along and join us for family fun and food – and hopefully we'll spot some flying furries!

BBQ starts at 7.30pm, with bat and moth watch following on into dusk.



Monday 13<sup>th</sup> September

Come to our talk and find out how best to feed and look after your **garden birds over winter**.



Monday 11<sup>th</sup> October

Come along and hear all about **Carsington Reservoir** and it's wonderful array of wildlife – a talk by Mark Walker, Senior Ranger.



Monday 8<sup>th</sup> November

**Fungi are Fun!** Come to this illustrated talk and learn all about finding and identifying some of the tastiest mushrooms and other interesting fungi – by Lee Scudder.



The talks are held at **Abbey Gates Primary School, Ravenshead**, at 7.30pm. Parking is available in the School car park at rear. Entry to talks is £1.50 (including refreshments) and *non-members are very welcome!*

Why not try your luck at the talks by having a go in our raffle or have a browse of our Wildlife Trust stall, which sells bird food, nest boxes, gifts, cards and much more!

# KIRKBY'S HIDDEN TREASURE - by Rob Carlyle

Common Spotted Orchid by Rob Carlyle



An e-mail arrived. *If you go down to Kirkby today, you're sure of a big surprise!* An impromptu group expedition was organised!

Turn off Lowmoor Road in Kirkby onto Southwell Lane. Stop by the waste ground you see immediately to your left. And prepare to be amazed!

What was derelict industrial land has been reclaimed by nature and is now home to hundreds of spotted orchids and bee orchids. Linnets flock and yellowhammers call. Other wild flowers are there in abundance including weld, mignonnet, greater napweed and bladder campion. The spotted orchids grow so thickly in places that you will run out of superlatives. Some are so tall and strong they look like small hyacinths. And were some of them the rare and special southern marsh orchids? We'd love to find out and are planning a group visit next year to solve the problem.

Join us in June 2005 for a special 'walk on the wild side'! Watch newsletter for details.

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# NEW LOCAL NATURE RESERVES IN MANSFIELD DISTRICT - by Andrew Lowe

I am pleased to be able to take this opportunity to introduce myself. I have been the Natural Connections Officer for Mansfield since March, when I was charged to carry on the good work started by Jackie Scott.

As part of the Natural Connections Project at Mansfield, five sites have been chosen as Local Nature Reserves (LNRs). These are Maun Valley Park, Oak Tree Heath, Quarry Lane Walkway, Ravensdale and The Hermitage. There will be an evening event held at the Civic Centre in Mansfield to celebrate the declaration of these new LNRs on the 14<sup>th</sup> July, when councillors and officers from MDC, ADC and English Nature, together with representatives from Notts Wildlife Trust and the local Mansfield branch will attend.

Following on from the success of designating these sites, we will be looking for up to five more sites, hopefully another on the River Maun at Oakham and two or three on the River Meden, so as to create protected green corridors along these river valleys.

If you require any further information or if you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact me either by telephone (01623 463324), e-mail ([alowe@mansfield.gov.uk](mailto:alowe@mansfield.gov.uk)) or by writing to me at:

Andrew Lowe, Natural Connections Officer  
Mansfield District Council  
Civic Centre, Chesterfield Road South  
Mansfield, Notts. NG19 7BH



## HILLS AND HOLES – by Rob Carlyle

What a difference individuals and groups can make!

Our summer programme of walks continued in June with a walk in the north of our area to the Hills and Holes in Church Warsop, led by group member Carol Pritchard.

On a lovely summer evening Carol and Andy Lowe (NWT Natural Connections Officer) led a group of 18 on a fascinating tour of this overlooked area. Andy showed us the improvements made to the site by the hardworking 'Friends of the Carrs' group supported by Trust officers. The group have successfully bid for funding that has improved the site for wildlife. The Trust have been there to advise all the way and Mansfield District Council have had to take on new skills managing hay meadows and other areas for wildlife.

Fragrant Orchids and twayblade were spotted during the walk and we were treated to the reeling call of the grasshopper warbler. We were also able to enjoy the secretive and increasingly rare tree sparrow whose high numbers are maintained by the regular feeding of one local. Andy told us that in the winter several thousand feeding finches can be seen in the bushes around the meandering stream.



Tree Sparrow  
(from RSPB Images)



Grasshopper Warbler  
(from RSPB Images)

Thanks Carol and Andy. And thanks to all those whose work has made this a better place for wildlife.

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## SHERWOOD'S PROPOSED NEW LOCAL NATURE RESERVES – by Liz Fleuty

A number of sites across the historic Sherwood Forest area will be designated as Local Nature Reserves (LNRs) this year. Local Nature Reserves are for people and wildlife. They are places with wildlife or geological features that are of special interest locally, which give people special opportunities to study and learn about them or simply enjoy and have contact with nature.

Local Nature Reserves are designated by local authorities under section 21 of the National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act (1949). Designation of a site as a Local Nature Reserve means that the local authority accepts a commitment to manage the land as a nature reserve and protect it from inappropriate uses or development.

If you would like to comment on the proposals to declare any of the sites below as Local Nature Reserves, or would like information on activities, events and volunteer tasks please contact Liz Fleuty, Community Liaison Officer on 01623 758231 or by e-mail to [liz.fleuty@nottscc.gov.uk](mailto:liz.fleuty@nottscc.gov.uk). Copies of outline management plans for NCC sites (marked \* below) can be found on [www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk](http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk).

The sites proposed as new Local Nature Reserves across Sherwood are on the following page:-

| PROPOSED SITE                        | LOCAL AUTHORITY                    | LOCATION                                                                                                                                                                       | GRID REF.                                                                                                                                                        |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Oak Tree Heath</b>                | Mansfield District Council         | Off Jubilee Way (Oak Tree Lane estate) in Mansfield. Parking at Oak Tree Lane Tesco's.                                                                                         | SK 565 603                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>Tippings Wood*</b>                | Nottinghamshire County Council     | Warsop Lane, between Rainworth & Blidworth. Car park on site.                                                                                                                  | SK 589 567                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>Rainworth Water*</b>              | Nottinghamshire County Council     | Colliery access road from A617 (Rainworth by-pass). Just across the road from NWT Rainworth Heath Nature Reserve. No parking at present; access (on foot) via public footpath. | SK 599 593                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>Cockglode &amp; Rotary Woods*</b> | Nottinghamshire County Council     | Adjacent to Sherwood Heath LNR, off Ollerton corner roundabout. Car parking, toilets and visitor centre at Ollerton Tourist Information Centre.                                | SK 650 675                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>Southwell Trail*</b>              | Nottinghamshire County Council     | Linear trail following route of former Southwell to Mansfield railway, from Bilsthorpe to Southwell. Car parking at Bilsthorpe, Farnsfield, Kirklington and Southwell.         | Bilsthorpe car park:<br>SK 649 601<br><br>Farnsfield car park:<br>SK 644 572<br><br>Kirklington car park:<br>SK 675 566<br><br>Southwell car park:<br>SK 706 543 |
| <b>Vicar Water Country Park</b>      | Newark & Sherwood District Council | Clipstone Village. Car park, visitor centre, toilets and café on site.                                                                                                         | SK 588 628                                                                                                                                                       |

The Sherwood Area Local Nature Reserves project is a Wildspace! funded project, supported by English Nature and the New Opportunities Fund. It is part of the Sherwood Forest Community Rangers Project, a partnership project supporting landowners and local communities to work together to protect and manage countryside areas across the Sherwood Forest area. This is supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund through the Sherwood Forest Trust – Sherwood Initiative.



## WHA'D'YOU WANT?!

As the young Mr. Grace said in 'Are you being served?' – "You're all doing very well!"

Up to sixty of you have come along to our 2004 winter programme of talks. Our summer programme of walks has attracted up to twenty at a time. We have some great things still to do in 2004 – but it's time to plan ahead for 2005. So, let us know what interests you.

Ideas that have bubbled up so far include 'The deer of Nottinghamshire', 'Notts otters' and 'Nottinghamshire birds of prey'. We may also repeat our visit to Rutland Water. And we want to include events for families. So, let us know your ideas!! It's **your** group!!



### Your local group contacts:

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| Rob Carlyle<br>Tel: 01623 400344<br><a href="mailto:robcarlyle@ntlworld.com">robcarlyle@ntlworld.com</a> | Jeune Price<br>Tel: 01623 623824<br><a href="mailto:jeuneprice@totalise.co.uk">jeuneprice@totalise.co.uk</a> | Sarah Kelly<br>Tel: 01159 630561<br><a href="mailto:sarah@kelly101.fslife.co.uk">sarah@kelly101.fslife.co.uk</a> |
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