

News and Events

Coming up in **February 2010** will be a 3 part Hedgelaying course. The first session (**6th**) will focus on learning about hedges and the theoretical aspects of hedgelaying. The second session (**13th**) will give you the opportunity to hedge lay for yourself! There will also be a more family friendly day on the **20th**. All will be held at Sutton Ecology Centre.



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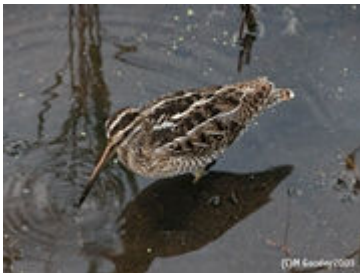
In order for us to say a huge thank you to all of our volunteers we will be having a Winter Barbecue at Roundshaw Woods on **Thursday 17th December**. There will be work involved though! We will be continuing our work of controlling areas of snowberry growth. Also, as a treat for Christmas, we will be having an away day to Chobham Common (a Surrey Wildlife Trust site) on **Thursday 10th December** and in return for helping them remove pine from this heathland, you will be able to take your very own hand cut Christmas Tree home!

There are also few Action Days programmed in for the tasks that may come up at short notice. Please call 020 8770 5821 for further information on these. Make sure that

you receive the newsletter to keep abreast with events and any changes to the task programme.

Katie Wilkinson

The sites we work on:



Anton Crescent Local Nature Reserve



This site was formed out of the need for a flood storage area in the event of the Pyl Brook flooding. The volunteers of the SNCV have worked hard on this site and have created a lovely, quiet reserve nestled between residential areas and a school in the heart of Sutton. This Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC) and Local Nature Reserve has a pond at the northern end, willow carr, an extensive reedbed and grassland. Alongside the boardwalk, there is a stretch of hawthorn, blackthorn, ash, and hazel trees (amongst other species) which have been prepared for some hedgelaying task days. Sections of 20m or so will be layed year upon year, creating a diverse structure for birds, small mammals and invertebrates. The trees that have already been laid are re-generating well and creating a dense stretch of vegetation for wildlife to thrive in.

A corporate volunteer day with First Assist Insurance saw the willow carr coppiced in order to control its spread into the reedbed and to reduce the uptake of water from the reedbed. The volunteers also cut back the reedmace which was encroaching into the open water at the northern end. That day saw excellent views of a heron coming down to feed at the ponds edge and two green woodpeckers flying through the reserve.

In the coming weeks we will have our eyes peeled for over wintering green sandpiper and snipe (above left) -an exciting prospect!

As well as carrying on with habitat management, in the future we hope to work with the neighbouring Primary School to get the children out of the classroom and onto this beautiful reserve in order for them to enjoy its wildlife and to learn about more about nature.