

Kemerton Clippings

Issue 3

January 2009

Appeals for Help!

The Trust is looking for volunteer help in the following areas:

Work Party Volunteers:

Whilst the work parties have started well, we still require more volunteers. If you know of anyone who can give up a few hours one Saturday a month to help out on our reserves, please contact our Support Coordinator Kate Aubury on 07765 334 776.

Help with our annual Easter Egg Hunt:

We will be holding the KCT annual Easter Egg Hunt on 11th April 2009 at Kemerton Court. We are looking for volunteers to help on the day with the event. If you are able to give us even an hour of your time, please contact our Support Coordinator Kate Aubury on 07765 334 776.

Fly Tipping Hotline:

Unfortunately we have been having problems with fly tipping at the lake. The council is investigating, but if any member should see anything, we would be grateful if they could report it to the fly tipping hotline: **01386 565 656**.

Any help is always gratefully received. The Trust is dependent upon the assistance it receives from its many volunteers to continue its important work in the local area, so please let us know if you can assist in any way.

Annual Open Day is a Triumph!

KCT's Annual Open Day at Kemerton Lake Nature Reserve was another big success, with over 100 'Friends of KCT' and local residents turning out to attend the event despite the blustery autumnal weather.



Panorama of Kemerton Lake

The Open Day, which took place on Sunday 19th October 2008, included two guided tours of Kemerton Lake Nature Reserve led by KCT Chairman Adrian Darby. Highlights of the reserve include our mining bee colony, the water birds found on our beautiful lake and the exotic species Arboretum, through which several permissive

paths run. The autumn colour was just beginning to show on Sunday and for those still there at the end of the day, we were treated to the sight of hundreds of starlings coming to roost in our reed beds.

In addition to the main guided tours, Fungus expert Jo Weightman led a walk in the Arboretum; identifying different fungi and giving a talk. Trustees and volunteers were also on hand throughout the event to answer questions on the conservation work KCT undertakes in the local area and to identify flora and fauna of the reserve for the attendees.

The day was cold and blustery but that did not stop locals from turning out to support the Trust and enjoy the wonderful walks. Over 100 people took part in the two walks and over £200 was taken on the day. This year we were able to expand the open day event to include a refreshment tent and information stand, which were both popular, even if the gale force winds nearly blew them away! There was also a nature trail for younger supporters. All in all it was a big hit and we got some great coverage in the Tewkesbury Observer and Evesham Journal.

A special thank you must go to all the volunteers who assisted on the day (particularly the Connolly Clan) and also to our corporate sponsor Aubury Computer Systems for loaning us tents.

The Open Day was a fantastic way to end the year for KCT and we look forward to more events in 2009! Details of our Spring/Summer programme can be found at the back of the newsletter.



KCT Chairman Adrian leads the walk

Governors Board Meeting 2008

Every year KCT Governors meet for the Annual Board Meeting to review the past year's work and to set goals for the new year.

In addition to the governors, the meeting is also attended by Conservation Advisor John Clarke and Support Coordinator Kate Aubury, who both report on their various activities from the year.

2008 has been a great year for the Trust and has seen several new schemes initiated. Our new 'Friends of KCT' has been a huge success and we hope to continue to expand on this in

2009. Our grant from Natural England through the ALSF fund enabled the Trust to open new permissive paths in the Arboretum, label trees and set up a volunteer work party, which has greatly improved our habitat management. And thanks to generous local supporters, we have been able to buy and erect fifteen bat boxes in our nature reserves.

However, as always, lack of funding remains an obstacle moving forward into 2009. As the Trust has expanded its work in recent months, costs have risen and more help is required.



Our priority for 2009 is to raise enough money to employ a part-time warden. We also hope to get further grant funding for wildlife projects, including training for bat surveying.

The current financial climate will make fundraising even harder than before, but we hope 2009 will see us grow more and achieve great things!

The Unsung Heroes of KCT

So much of the work the Trust does is undertaken by volunteers. Their contribution is invaluable and we would not function without them.

We would therefore like to take this opportunity to mention a few of the many volunteers who have given their time this year. This is not a complete list—there are too many people to name them all, over forty in fact—but just some of the individuals who went above and beyond in 2008!

This year, KCT updated our website www.kemerton.org and we would like to thank **Jim Verrechia** who designed and maintains the website for us and donated hours of his time on our behalf. The updated website is a real triumph and contains lots of information on our work, so if you haven't already had a look, check it out!

Also this year, we expanded our Glow Worm survey across Bredon Hill (see the website for John Clarke's report on the

result). A huge thank you goes to **Sue Chandler** for training the new survey teams and continuing her own work on Glow Worms.

Also, a special thank you to **Andy Hull** and **Alan Marsh** for all their habitat management work, **Sue McLeish** for her help in the wildflower nursery, and **Johnny Cutler** for his work in labelling the Arboretum.

Of course, thank you to all who helped us in 2008 — you know who you are!

Funding Update

The fundraising campaign by Governor Roger Workman raised over £2,500 in total, which was brilliant. The money has been invaluable in helping with ongoing running costs for the trust, including equipment and training for



the volunteers, bat boxes for the new scheme, events and more. We will continue to fundraise locally in 2009, including holding a raffle in the Spring.

We have recently submitted a new grant application to ALSF and are waiting to hear. We intend to submit more applications as soon as possible to other grant bodies.

Thank you to all who have supported us this year!

Meet our Board of Governors...

Kemerton Conservation Trust is run by a board of governors, each bringing valuable nature expertise and enthusiasm to the work of the trust. Here is a brief biog on each;

Adrian Darby OBE (Chairman): Adrian founded KCT in 1989 and owns the Kemerton Estate, which collaborates with the Trust. Adrian has a wealth of wildlife expertise, having served as Chairman of RSPB, Plantlife, Planta Europa, and the Joint Nature Conservation Committee of the UK, among other roles, in the course of his varied career. Adrian was appointed OBE for services to nature conservation in 1996.

Kate Connor: Kate, an architect with an interest in landscape and the natural environment, teaches architectural design at Bath University.

Matthew Darby: Matthew co-founded the trust with his father. As well as helping manage Kemerton Estate, he is a consultant with the Landscape Agency. He is also a member of

the Cotswold Conservation Board and parish councillor for Bredon.

Peter Doble: Peter is the Farm Manager for Kemerton Estate and brings his in-depth knowledge and experience of combining farming with conservation. He administers several agri-environment schemes on the Trust's behalf.

Lord Howick of Glendale: Lord Howick founded the world-renowned Howick Arboretum in 1985, a collection of rare trees grown entirely from wild-origin seeds collected from around the world, particularly China and Japan. He is a Trustee of the Royal Botanic Gardens Edinburgh and the Chelsea Physic Garden, as well as a member of the Advisory Council for Westonbirt and Bedgebury Arboreta.

Prof. David Macdonald: David is founder and director of WildCRU - Britain's first University-based research fellowship in nature conservation. He is Professor

of Wildlife Conservation at Oxford. He is also currently Chairman of DEFRA's Darwin Advisory Committee and sits on the Council of English Nature. David is also known for his award-winning books and TV documentaries such as *The Night of the Fox*.

Carl Nicholson: Carl is KCT's ornithology expert, having worked for many years for the RSPB. He brings a huge amount of expertise and enthusiasm to our work.

Roger Workman: Roger has lived in Kemerton since 1968. He is prominent in local business as Chairman & MD of Cotteswold Dairy and was a long-term supporter of KCT before becoming a Governor. He served for many years as a Parish Councillor and treasurer of Kemerton Village Hall. He has a passion for protecting the wildlife and natural beauty of the Bredon Hill area.

News in Brief

On the same weekend as our Annual Open Day, Kemerton Orchard Workers (KOW) held their popular Apple Day at the village hall.

Turnout was fantastic and over £400 was raised for Daffurns Orchard. The apple press was in such demand, there were queues outside! KOW has had a great year and their work in Daffurns is greatly appreciated by the Trust and locals. They have also now held their first work party.

*'KOW's Apple Day
was fantastic!'*



Our conservation Advisor John Clarke hosted a visit from the Oxford Academy in 2008. The youngsters were all disadvantaged or had learning difficulties.

They spent the day learning about woodland conservation and were given hazel seeds to grow in school. The kids had a very enjoyable day. KCT would like to see more hosted visits in the future, time and staff permitting.

Happy New Year: Our Survey Plans for 2009

Happy New Year and here's to a great 2009!

A big part of the work the Trust does is monitoring wildlife in the area; both on Trust reserves and on local farmland. Our scientific records are all submitted to the Worcestershire Biological Recorder and help to form a snapshot of the nature of our local area.

Over the years, our staff have monitored many species (more details on our website www.kemerton.org.) and in recent years we have been lucky to have many local

experts and enthusiasts to help us in our surveys.

At Kemerton Lake, Rob Prudden helps us to monitor the birds and Mike Averill has surveyed our dragonflies this year, whilst a team of volunteers surveyed glow worms across Bredon Hill. Our Conservation Advisor John Clarke has done further leaf litter trials, surveyed grassland fungi on our reserves and, together with the Severn and Avon Wetland Partnership, undertook surveys of waders in the Carrant Brook area. (See page 5 for more details.)

As we enter 2009, John is planning more monitoring of important BAP species.

Our biggest aim is to set up a proper bat survey, working in partnership with the Worcestershire Bat Group, to monitor our new bat boxes. We would also like to survey slow worms, common lizards, grass snakes and newts as well as continue many of the current monitoring schemes.

If you have an interest in wildlife or plants and can help monitor any native species, please let John know — enthusiasts are welcome!

Volunteer Working Party Group update

Well, we have completed our first year as a volunteer work party and my wife Kate has asked that I contribute a short piece on our last six months' achievements.



Since the first article in July, our group has cleared some reeds at the lake to encourage Jack Snipe, removed willow from the lake shallows and reed beds to preserve this BAP habitat and undertaken some hand coppicing in the John Moore reserve.

The half-day a month is a great excuse to get out into the fresh air (especially if you work in an office all week), see the local wildlife and learn a bit more about active conservation. When three of us helped clear a small area of reed on the bank of the lake one month (thanks for your help that day Bobby!) we

learnt that Kemerton Lake is one of the most important sites in Worcestershire for wintering Jack Snipe who prefer wet open ground, and the reed collected was placed in heaps in the shrub and hedgerow for snakes and amphibians to nest in.

We erected a beetle wigwam in the woods using leftover timber from the new ride, and coppiced branches were piled in mounds to make dead wood habitats for beetles and cover for nesting birds. Nothing ever goes to waste—any plant clippings can be used to create a valuable habitat. It may look untidy, but nature loves rotting wood!

I really enjoy our work parties—it can be hard work, but it's very satisfying and we have a lovely group of regulars now so it's nice to meet up and do something worthwhile whilst having fun and staying fit!

By David Aubury,
Work Party Volunteer

We are still looking for more volunteers. Anyone interested should contact our Support Coordinator, Kate Aubury, on 07765 334 776 or by email on kate@aubury.co.uk. All tools and safety equipment will be provided and no experience is necessary.

In addition to our own work parties, a group of trained volunteers from Gloucester Vale Conservation Volunteers has spent a day at Beggarboys Nature Reserve clearing scrub.

Kemerton Cuttings

Biological Records Report from John Clarke (March –October 08)

Kemerton Lake

1st April – first Swallow, 4 Gadwall, 20 Sand Martin, c.150 Common Gull overhead.

4th April – first Willow Warbler

10th April – Pair of Kingfisher prospecting

12th April – Wheatear & Common Sandpiper present & 50 Golden Plover flew over.

17th April – Oystercatcher on eggs, pair Pochard, c.50 Greylag, Mallard with 9 young

18th April – 3 pairs Pochard – later one pair raised 7 young, 2nd pair raised 2 young

19th – 2 male Garganey present & first Reed Warbler heard.

20th April – 4 Common Scoter, Whimbrel & Common Tern

21st April – 2 Whimbrel, first Sedge Warbler heard

24th April & again on 28th - Little Ringed Plover

25th & 27 April - an Arctic Tern was present.

27th April – Grasshopper Warbler heard

28th April – 50 Greylag, 10 Little Grebe, 2 Common Sandpiper, Dunlin, 8 Lapwing, first Swifts (15)

29th April - a Hobby & 2 Black Tern were recorded. Also Snipe, Common Sandpiper, Lesser Whitethroat.

Ruddy duck were present during early spring but 'the men from the ministry' culled them.

5th May – 3 Common Tern, Grey Heron tagged GA

6th May - 22 singing male Reed Warbler, 2 singing Sedge Warbler & a Reed Bunting.

7th May – 2 Black Tern, 3 Common Tern, the tagged Grey Heron (ringed as a pullus Frampton)

8th May – 7 Black Tern, 1 Woodcock, 9th May - Black Tern

10th May – 30 singing Reed Warbler, 5 singing Sedge Warbler, 2 singing Reed Bunting, Kingfisher, 4 Grey heron

17th May - tagged Grey Heron still present

26th May – 2 Hobby .

Sightings of Kingfisher were regular throughout the spring & summer.

10th June – 3 adult Redshank, tagged Grey Heron

16th June – c.30 Lapwing in post-fledging flock

27th June – post-fledging flock of c.120 Jackdaw.

3 pairs of Little Grebe & 2 pairs of Great-crested Grebe bred. The Little Grebe are thought to have reared at least 3 broods, the Great-crested Grebe also reared 3 broods.

Water Rail heard calling regularly June/July

14th July - first returning Wigeon, Kingfisher, c.150 Lapwing

21st July – Wigeon

24th July – first 4 returning Shoveler

5th July – c.150 Lapwing.

Little Egret - from 1-5 present frequently June to September.

The pair of Oystercatcher failed to breed.

1st August – Teal, Shoveler, Common Sandpiper (regular around this time)

7th August – 2 juvenile Yellow Wag-tail.

2nd September – 9 Teal, 180 Lapwing, 14 Little Grebe, 285 Canada Goose, 101 Greylag, 12 Barnacle, 2 Red-crested Pochard.

10th September – first Snipe

15th September – 5 Shoveler, 10 Wigeon, Little Owl, Water Rail, late Sedge Warbler, 18 Siskin

26th September – 20 Shoveler, 16 Little Grebe, first Jack Snipe, late Reed Warbler, 2 Pintail, 3 Snipe

28th September – 2 Gadwall

There were several sightings of Barn Owl in the area but no breeding found.

In spring over 200 Southern Marsh Orchid, 285 Bee Orchid & 95 Pyramidal Orchid.

Campanula glomerata was found in several sites.

A hornet was seen on 26th Sept.

Mike Averill has been recording dragonflies and has now found 19 species at the lake

Elsewhere on the estate

7th April – 18 Snipe in a field of beans, first Swallow visiting local nest site. Later at least 3 pairs bred there and on 31st July 34 on wires.

11th May – Wood Warbler seen & heard but did not stay.

13th May – Male Whinchat near Kinsham.

During surveys Whitethroat & Bullfinch were widespread & fairly common but few Willow Warbler heard.

Around Bredon Hill area

3rd May – Red Kite over Conderton/Beckford.

28th May – Red Kite over Kemerton

7th June – Burnet Rose found on hedge bank above Kemerton

9th June – Red Kite over Kemerton

12th July – Red Kite over Beckford

14th September – min. 12 Buzzard circling/displaying above Kemerton

The Carrant Catchment area is included in the Severn and Avon Wader Survey and away from Kemerton Lake Reserve a part survey found 22 pairs Lapwing, 1 pair Curlew, 4 pairs Reed Warbler 4 pairs Sedge Warbler & 3 pairs Reed Bunting.

Local volunteers carried out a survey of Glow-worm on Bredon Hill and the results can be seen at www.kemerton.org.

Kemerton Conservation Trust is grateful to all contributors – in particular Rob Prudden.

**By John Clarke,
Conservation Advisor**

**Kemerton Clippings & Cuttings
January 2009**

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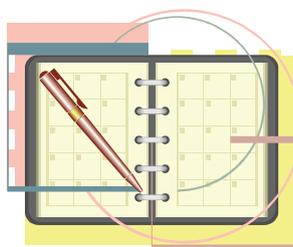
**For more information on the work
of KCT, please visit our website:
www.kemerton.org**



Shaggy Inkcap spotted on the Open Day

Save the Date!

- **Saturday 24th January** - Working Party (10am start, location to be confirmed)
- **Saturday 28th February** - Working party (10am start, location to be confirmed)
- **Friday 13th March - Members only Event**, Slide Show and Talk @ 8pm in Victoria Hall, Kemerton (more details to follow)
- **Saturday 28th March** - Working party (10am start, location to be confirmed)
- **Saturday 11th April** - Easter Egg Hunt @ Kemerton Court (more details to follow)
- **Saturday 25th April** - Working party (10am start, location to be confirmed)
- **Saturday 30th May** - Working party (10am start, location to be confirmed)
- **Saturday 27th June** - Working party (10am start, location to be confirmed)



KEMERTON COURT

TEWKESBURY

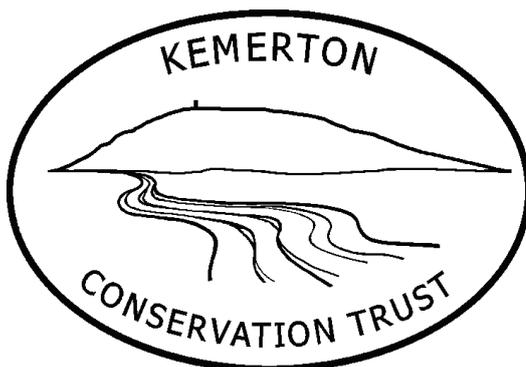
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