



# THANET COUNTRYSIDE TRUST

Registered charity No. 285972    Founded: 1971    Charitable Status: 1982

## *Conservation and Education*

July 2016

## National Moth Night Success

Families, reserve members and the general public enjoyed a successful Moth and Bat evening on Friday 10th June, when Kent Moth Group visited and surveyed the reserve, as part of the national moth night programme.

The Moth group led by Kent County Recorder Dave Shenton, began with a talk and presentation on British moths before identifying live ones from traps they had set up earlier. Amongst the species identified were willow beauty, light emerald and green carpet.

Part of evening was to look specifically at Hawk Moths and one of the ones discovered was the Eyed Hawk Moth (pictured).



It was a fascinating evening and the children and adults that took part went away wanting to have a go at attracting moths into their own gardens and putting in plants

that attract them, such as Night Scented Stocks, Evening Primrose and Honeysuckle.

All moths were released unharmed at the end of the event.

Monkton Nature Reserve, Canterbury Road, Monkton, Nr Ramsgate, Kent, CT12 4LH

[www.monkton-reserve.org](http://www.monkton-reserve.org)

e-mail: [monktonnaturereserve@hotmail.com](mailto:monktonnaturereserve@hotmail.com)

phone: 01843 822666

Supported by Thanet District Council

Supported by Neville Weston Chartered Certified Accountants

# Fun and Music at the Open Weekend

This year we had an Open Weekend on Sat/Sun 28th/29th May, rather than a single Open Day, which provided lots of fun and enjoyment for all our visitors.

Birds of Prey, face painting, astronomy, tombola, guided walks and live music were among this year's attractions. With the reserve making over £1000, we improved upon last year's event. All of which will go towards conserving nature as well as some on site improvements.

Thanks must go to all the volunteers that helped make each day so enjoyable, including those who donated cakes, tombola and sealed auction items as well as their time.



Youngsters enjoyed seeing and learning about birds of prey, including Kestrels (pictured), Barn and Tawny Owls as well as Harris Hawks.

*Note:* Birds will be on display on Fridays during the summer holidays.

## Easyfundraising

As of the end of May, a total of £363.30 had been raised for Monkton Nature Reserve by just 31 supporters who simply use the Easyfundraising website to access their favourite online shopping websites.

Easyfundraising is a charity support organisation providing a great way to raise money for charities, schools, sports clubs, community groups, and other good causes simply by shopping online. You can shop with over 2,700 retailers (e.g. Amazon, Argos, Boots, etc.) and choose from over 55,000 good causes. And you don't pay anything extra. So far, Easyfundraising has raised over £12.5million for good causes throughout the UK.

Using the Easyfundraising website or app costs nothing, is very easy to set up, and purchases that are made will result in the retailers making a donation (at no cost to the user) to your chosen good cause. Why not help us out by giving it a try? You can find out more about Easyfundraising on our own website, or you can go directly to the [Easyfundraising.org.uk](http://Easyfundraising.org.uk) website. All you need to do is to register Monkton Nature Reserve as your deserving cause. Every little helps and will go towards the work of the Thanet Countryside Trust.

## **OPEN GARDEN WITH CAKE AND REFRESHMENTS**



Our ever popular Open Garden event with refreshments will be held once again in the lovely surroundings of The Slate Barn in Seamark Road, Monkton CT7 0JL on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> September from 2pm to 5pm. Just turn up on the day. £2 entry. Tombola and plant sales. Free parking available. Thanks in advance to Ann and Hugh Bird.

### **TOMBOLA PRIZES**

If anyone has a prize that we can use for our tombola at the Open Garden event, it would be gratefully received. All monies from the event will go toward the maintenance of the reserve.

### **CRAFT MATERIALS NEEDED**

We are putting on a number of nature related craft events in the school holidays, but are in need of some jam jars (by 29th July) as well as A4 sized card to make masks with on 5th August. Once again, we would be very grateful if anyone has any going spare and would be willing to donate them.

# **New Environmental Education Officer will develop services at MNR**

Last month, Monkton Nature Reserve employed a new member of staff, Kashmir Flint, to be our new Environmental Education Officer. As part of Kashmir's role, she is developing our education services with schools and key community groups, continuing our on-site learning events, and developing a new scheme of classroom visits.



We offer many subjects which tie in with current National Curriculum topics, including habitat walks, food webs and life cycles, with practical sessions pond dipping and experiencing real life birds of prey. Whilst the benefits of outdoors learning are clear, the largest barrier that stops schools from visiting

is the cost of transportation, and as a result, Monkton Nature Reserve have either frozen or cut charges and developed a series of indoor classroom talks, with practical activities using items from the Reserve.

Our education isn't just aimed at schools. We believe that education for other key community groups is also important to extend our reach within the community. These groups include youth groups (cubs, beavers, etc.), adult social groups and vulnerable adult groups.

We have a new section on our website about our education services, so for more information, please visit <http://www.monkton-reserve.org/education/>.

**"The children enjoyed all the activities. They were varied and kept their attention. We will be booking again" - Visiting Teacher**

**"I have already told several people about the quality of our experience ... and the level of knowledge and passion shown by the staff" - Visiting teacher**

## **Harold the Hedgehog**

If you follow us on Facebook, you may have seen Harold the Monkton Hedgehog (featured below, left), who is helping us continue our awareness efforts after hedgehog awareness week. Harold has been joined by many other clay friends, which children can make after collecting resources from the Reserve. Harold will also be appearing in school assemblies, to help us protect our prickly friends.



## **Plant volunteer wanted**

We have a range of plants on sale at the reserve, many of which are kindly propagated and donated by one of our members, but we need someone who is able to spare a few hours each week to look after and present them better.



So if you feel this is something you could help with, please give us a call on 01843 822666 any day of the week, between 10am and 5pm.

# NATIONAL ASH TAG SCHEME

Ash dieback disease has been rapidly spreading across the country since first appearing in October 2012, destroying thousands of our native Ash trees.

Monkton Nature Reserve volunteers are now taking part in the National Ash Tag Scheme, to help scientists try and understand how the disease spreads.



A tagged Ash tree

A number of trees at the reserve have been given an identification tag, so they can be monitored and photographed on a regular basis, with the information forwarded to a team of experts who will be analysing the data.

The aim is to identify specimens that show tolerance to the disease and use them as the nucleus of a future breeding programme and develop techniques that will produce large numbers of trees for reforestation.

Members can check how the work is going, by viewing our Facebook page or website.

## MONKTON NATURE RESERVE BOOKSHOP



If you love reading, we have a great collection of second-hand books for sale. We have a massive range of subjects, from archaeology to zoology and many others in between, as well as a great range of paperback fiction and children's books.

Some of our books are nearly new, but we also have very many interesting older volumes.

Most of our hardbacks cost just £1, paperbacks 75p and children's books a mere 50p!

Every month we choose a selection of authors/themes for our "bargain books" trolley, with all books costing 50p.

Our selection for **August** will include: M C Beaton, Arnold Bennett, Ann Cleeves, Harlan Coben, R F Delderfield, Colin Dexter and H G Wells. There may be others if we can fit them on the trolley!

Come down and have a browse round. There is also free access to the museum.