

A Date for your Diary

THE BRITISH OAK TREE AND ITS WILDLIFE

Public talk

by Martin Woolner

Tree Warden, Maidenhead and Windsor

Tuesday 21st September

at Woosehill Community Hall

Wokingham RG41 2TS

from 7.30 – 9.30 (doors open 7.10 p.m.)

Admission £3 to include refreshments

For centuries Windsor Forest has been home to many fine British oaks *Quercus robur*. They form about two thirds of the trees so far recorded along the Emm Brook. In this illustrated talk, Martin will describe the miniature but massive wildlife that these trees support.

All welcome Phone 0118 9784013



Recent sightings around the Emm Brook

Do let us know what you see when you are out and about along the Emm Brook.

Since January there have been a few excitements 1) a snipe by Meadow Road Bridge, 2) a possible otter, 3) regular kingfisher sightings. 4) red kites flying over, see page.2.

Snipe are very distinctive with a long straight beak, otters are easily confused with mink, but otters are slightly bigger than mink and swim with their heads only just showing above the water, mink swim with heads out of the water. Kingfishers are very distinctive bright blue and flying very fast.

NEW FOTEB WEBSITE

Since the last newsletter, the FOTEB website has been completely revamped and updated and is full of useful information about the brook and it's environment including historical facts, current sightings and plans for future activities. Have a look at www.foteb.org.uk you'll be amazed at what is packed in there.

New members are always welcome, as are offers of help with the seasonal activities such as putting up nest boxes and clearing out old ones, sampling the water content, pulling balsam, planting trees, monitoring birds, wildflowers and trees, and generally keeping an eye on the brook and its surroundings. You don't have to be an expert, it's interest and enthusiasm that is needed. Activities always take place in groups and we all learn from each other.

Watch the website for events and activities and just give us a call if you think you might like to help

RED KITES and Other Birds of Prey around the Emm

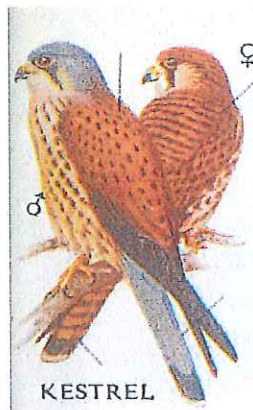
RED KITES were reintroduced into the Chilterns about 15 years ago and have since spread to the surrounding regions. They are often seen over Wokingham now and frequently over the area around the Emm Brook. They are very distinctive birds and if you look **UP** as you walk along the brook you will often see them soaring. A big bird measuring about 62cms long and with a wingspan of 150 – 160 cms. Look for the distinctive outline in the sky, a deeply forked tail with red tail feathers.



Wingspan 160cms length 62cms

OTHER BIRDS OF PREY seen around the EMM

Kestrels: are common, often seen hovering, Length about 34cms,. Reddish back. Male, grey head, black wing



KESTREL

Sparrow Hawks: not so common as kestrels, but regular visitors. Female 38cms, male 28cms



SPARROW HAWK

Note: The New Website address is www.foteb.org.uk