

environmental
partnership
in
action

The Greensand Trust

June - October 2009

Greensand Highlights

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Coming soon...a stunning landscape for all to enjoy!

Greensand Trust and Central Bedfordshire Council have formed a partnership to preserve a large area of parkland for people and wildlife. Rushmere Park, situated just north of Leighton Buzzard, comprises 210 acres of parkland and mixed woodland, with a wide variety of important habitats, including open grassland, heathland and lakes.



Central Bedfordshire Council and Greensand Trust have been able to purchase Rushmere Park using money from both Central Government, including a grant of £573,000 from the Department of Communities and Local Government, and private third sector funding and donations, including a generous donation of £120,000 from the Peter Smith Charitable Trust.

The site will remain closed (existing Rights of Way will remain open) until all works for access and masterplanning have been completed. Updates will be published on www.greensandtrust.org

A little taste of what the Greensand Trust has been involved in.
www.greensandtrust.org

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Sands of Time project exhibition

Leighton-Linslade Library hosted an exhibition from the Sands of Time project dedicated to the Grand Union Canal when sand was transported from the area by boats.

A talk was given to Leighton Buzzard Historical Society about the material recorded so far.

New volunteers

More volunteers have joined the Greensand Ridge Walk team to help monitor and look after the route.

Stockwood Heritage and Health Walks

The Greensand Trust was awarded the contract to waymark and interpret a series of 5 heritage Walks at Stockwood Park; from the Stockwood Discovery Centre to Kidney Wood and around the Stockwood Park Estate; restore Cutenhoe pond and carry out a pilot project to restore an area of lowland heathland.

This work will compliment the works carried out by the Trust last year in Kidney Wood.

Amphill Park hosts archaeological event

Local volunteers were invited to help Northampton Archaeology with the excavations in the hope to reveal more about Amphill Castle.



Sands of Time project funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund aims to collect, record memories, artefacts and photos of local people who work or used to work for the Leighton Buzzard Sand Industry. Material collected will be archived and made available as local resources and as part of the sand museum project proposed for Leighton Buzzard.



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River Ouzel cleaned up



Over the past few months regular river clearance tasks have been undertaken with volunteer support, mainly along the Ouzel north of Town Bridge.

A number of blockages caused by fallen willows have been dealt with and ongoing removal of larger items of rubbish, litter and dead-wood debris ensures a free-flowing river in this area as winter approaches.

Bug Lab Tour 2009

More than 275 children plus their parents learnt about the minibeasts on their doorstep in the Bug Lab Tour 2009 at nine different sites across Bedfordshire.

Ouzel Valley Park improvements

New cycle pathway created from 12 Arches to the footbridge.



Averys Garage is developing well as a conservation area, recent work involving members of the local 'Friends' group having included opening up of access trails and planting of the river-bank 'scallop' and side-channel with waterside plants. Invasive Japanese Knot Weed has been sprayed and hopefully eliminated.

Some planting has been done along the 'scallop' on the river bank at King Street Open Space.

River Ranger project aims to clear the river and make a difference to the quality of the environment for people and wildlife with the support of the local community in Leighton Buzzard. The main objectives for the clearance tasks have been to clear the river of rubbish and to minimise flood risk, whilst maintaining wildlife habitat.

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Team Extreme impress crowds at Big Greenie 2009



The Big Greenie 2009 was a success once again! Hundreds of visitors from Leighton Buzzard, Hemel Hempstead and between enjoyed the activities at Tiddenfoot Waterside Park on Bank holiday Monday.

Helping to change community spaces

Aspley Guise want to turn an underused recreation ground into an interesting community space. The extensive community consultation (drop in session and questionnaires) will inform a project plan.

Funding awarded through Chalk Arc Community Grant Scheme

The Greensand Trust are administering the Chalk Arc Community Grant Scheme on behalf of the Chalk Arc Initiative. The first grant has been awarded for improvements to a community pond. Several other projects are awaiting the decision from the Grants panel.

Volunteers from Open University help Ampthill Park

The Greensand Ridge Walk runs through Laurel Wood in Ampthill Park and is edged by rows of lime trees. The path had become very overgrown and the trees were barely visible. Volunteers from the Open University cut back the laurel to restore the tree lined avenue



Preserving our Orchards is a joint project between Greensand Trust and BRCC to support local community orchards by providing training and tools. The project team have also formed partnerships with the national surveys being conducted by People's Trust for Endangered Species and Open Air Laboratory Network.



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Working Woodland Centre

The Working Woodland Centre is one project that consists of two linked elements:

- Provide workshop space for wood related enterprises;
- Create new visitor facilities at Maulden Wood, a popular attraction, acting as a hub for access and information.



It is hoped that this approach will both improve the visitor experience at Maulden Wood and help to stimulate the rural economy associated with woodlands and wood products, creating and sustaining local jobs and acting as an exemplar in positive woodland management and carbon reduction.

www.greensandtrust.org/WorkingWoodland/index2.html

Run Wild!

Artist Chris Goodwin led activities in the woodland in Flitwick Manor Park for 135 children and adults to create a giant 'dragon' shape from fallen timber and a spectacular sculpture form using natural materials as well as individual hanging natural shapes. By combining imagination and materials found in the woodland lots of 'castles', dens and camps were created during the afternoon.

The event was supported by Central Bedfordshire Council, Flitwick Town Council, Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity (BRCC) and Greensand Trust.



Greensand Ridge Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE) is an investment programme managed by the Local Action Group. The Group consists of members which represent local community and rural business interests from across the Greensand Ridge Area.
www.greensand.org.uk

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Heathland Forum

Bedfordshire's 2009 Heathland Forum took place at Stockgrove Country Park with a talk by Sarah Alsbury on the RSPB's heathland restoration project in Dorset. Followed by a tour around the newly acquired 210 acre Rushmere Estate south of Stockgrove Country Park that has been jointly purchased by the Greensand Trust and Central Bedfordshire Council.



Keep up-to-date with news and events for the Heathlands of the Greensand Ridge at www.greensandtrust.org/2010heathlandProj.html

Countdown 2010 Photography Competition

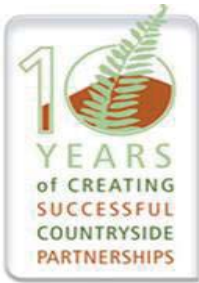


Cooper's Hill in the snow
by Ed Turner

The purpose of the photographic competition was to raise awareness of the Countdown 2010 Heathlands of the Greensand Ridge project, encourage people to visit their local heathland sites and to produce images that could be used by the Trust to promote the project.

The first prize was awarded to Ed Turner, for a picture of Cooper's Hill in the snow. Second prize was awarded to Michael Plowman for a picture of Gorse with a coating of frost taken on Rammamere heath, and third prize went to Rory Morrissey, for a picture of a hoverfly on heather, also taken on Rammamere heath.

Heathlands of the Greensand Ridge is a partnership project, led by the Greensand Trust, aiming to restore and improve the management of heathlands and acid grasslands across the Greensand Ridge. In October 2008 the Greensand Trust was awarded £144,000 by Natural England from their Countdown 2010 Biodiversity Action fund to deliver the project over 3 years.



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Photo Exhibition raises funds for Greensand trust

Bedford Street Art Gallery adopt Greensand Trust as their Charity

John Cowlshaw of the Bedford Street gallery said: "We are very pleased to support this charity. The Greensand Ridge is a very special place and its essence has been captured by photographer Richard Welham.



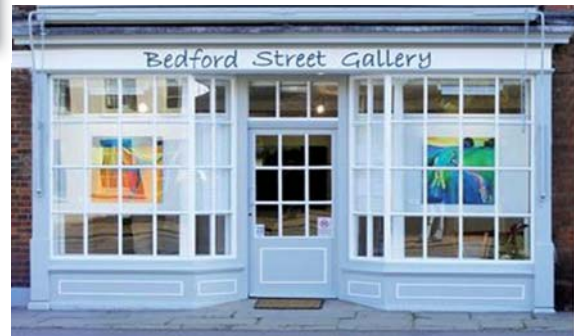
Barn Owl by Richard Welham



An exhibition featuring the work of wildlife photographer Richard Welham which includes pictures of some of the rarest and most elusive animals of the Greensand Ridge was exhibited in Bedford Street Gallery, Woburn.



Staff and friends of the Greensand Trust volunteered over the 4 day event to speak to visitors to the exhibition about the work of the Greensand Trust. We are very grateful for all the support received to help run the event and managed to raise £3000 for the Trust.



Show your support

The Greensand Trust values the support of volunteers and donators and would not be able to achieve all of this without it. If you are interested in helping or donating to the Trust please visit www.greensandtrust.org

Growing GreenSpace Appeal The Trust's 10th Anniversary Growing GreenSpace Appeal is intended to raise funds to secure, protect and link vital areas of countryside, improve access, and preserve landscape, heritage and wildlife features. www.greensandtrust.org/growinggreenspace/growingGreenspace.html