

Newsletter Winter 2008



Welcome to the Winter 2008 Green Shoots in Cheshire newsletter where you can find out more about projects that are running at the moment and catch up on what's new. In this edition you can find out more about a shoot that has just received over £5,000 towards the cost of habitat improvements through the Sandstone Ridge Econet Partnership, there's an update on the water vole project on the Gowry and don't forget to put your name down for the charity clay shoot which will be going ahead next May. By supporting the project you can help gain the results we need to ensure our sport and its contribution to biodiversity is recognised by politicians, the media and the general public.

Ben Gregory



Sandstone Ridge Econet Partnership

Through the Sandstone Ridge Econet Partnership I have successfully bid for 75% funding towards the cost of habitat improvement work on a shoot in the south of the county. The landowner and shoot captain wanted to:

- plant 8,000 square metres of broadleaved woodland
- create two ponds
- initiate a traditional seven-year rotation coppice in an area of woodland that has over the years become neglected and overgrown with bracken
- install ten bat boxes in an area of woodland classed as a Site of Biological Importance (SBI).

The grant application was successful, and by the time you're reading this article the work will be well under way. The work will help to transform a little corner of Cheshire, that had been left unmanaged for years, into a prime shooting and wildlife area. The developments carried out through the shooting interest will make the area sustainable and will encourage active management.



www.basc.org.uk

CHESHIRE BIODIVERSITY PROJECT Simulated Game Shoot

14 and 15 May 2009
9am - 4pm

Manchester Clay Shooting Club,
Worsley



Two fantastic fun days of simulated game shooting are being run at the Manchester Clay Club at Worsley in May next year. The days are being run to raise funds for the BASC Cheshire Biodiversity project. Supported and sponsored by the Cheshire Gun Room the day will comprise of five drives; three in the morning and two after lunch, incorporating on one drive the MacNab Double Gun Challenge! Fifteen teams of four guns will shoot each day; lunch and refreshments are included. The cost for the day is just £120 per gun. Whether you are a single gun, a couple, a group of three or a full team of four you will be most welcome to come and join us on this wonderful day, have fun and raise some money for a very important project.

For more details

Contact Kathy Mainwaring
Tel: 01244 573017

On the day...

- All guests will receive a shoot card to keep as a memento of the day – this will carry subtle branding of all the key sponsors.
- All guests will receive a badge – specially made for the day.
- All guest will be entered into a free draw for a day's shooting on a local estate
- The team that comes LAST will be offered a free coaching lesson by Manchester Shooting Club
- There will be a paid-for raffle for a shotgun

**Fifteen teams of
four guns per day
£120 per gun**

If you have any questions about the work being done by the Green Shoots project in Cheshire, or you think you may be able to help, please don't hesitate to contact me.

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Hedgerow training day



Spring 2008 saw the launch of the Habitats and Hillforts initiative, led by Cheshire County Council (CCC), in which £1,395,000 of funding from the Heritage Lottery Funding (HLF) was given to the council and its partners.

One of the main aims of the initiative is to encourage more people to visit, learn about and become more involved in the area's landscape heritage. A proportion of the funding has been allocated to providing

practical training courses for landowners, land managers and other interested parties on various countryside topics.

I recently attended the Hedging Your Bets course which ran over two days and included a practical aspect in which the group were tutored under the expert eye of Pete Attwood from the British Trust for Conservation Volunteers (BTCV) on hedge laying, coppicing and planting. The two-day course gave an excellent overview of

hedgerows and their management and all for the princely sum of nothing!

It was a superb course and one I'd recommend to any BASC members who want to learn how to manage hedgerows on their shoot. There are more courses planned for next year including one on pond management.

If you're interested in attending one of the FREE courses don't hesitate to get in touch and I can pass the details on.

A bit of a grey area

After what can only be described as another disappointing summer I really didn't hold out much hope for this year's autumn grey partridge counts. Using the Game and Wildlife Conservation Trust's counting packs I carried out two counts, covering an area of over 200 hectares. The landowners have reported seeing small numbers of wild greys, but unfortunately they must have been having a lie-in on the mornings of the count!

With no greys spotted this time I'm hoping I'll be able to find more land to count on during the spring. If you're interested in carrying out a count yourself, or you would like some advice on how to encourage grey partridges to your shoot, please get in touch.



Mink beware

After months of preparation we now have ten mink rafts fully functioning on the River Gow. This has been a real combined effort with other partner organisations and I'm extremely pleased with progress so far. Within a week of putting out the rafts we had mink prints on four of them and traps were deployed to replace the clay pads.

So far we have successfully caught and dispatched four mink and hopefully, by the time I write the next instalment, we'll have more to report.

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