

Issue 43

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NEWS FROM COMMON WOOD

- SUCCESS IN CAMPAIGN TO SAVE COMMON WOOD

MARY SAVES A BLUE TIT

- DASH TO ST TIGGYWINKLES

WILDLIFE GARDEN RESTORED



BEE & WASP WALL ARISES FROM THE RUBBLE

- WASP MANSION DONATED TO FOXES PIECE LEARNING GARDEN

WILDLIFE ROUNDUP 2003



HOLLOW LANE REVISITED

- STILL THERE BUT VERY DIFFERENT TO THE 1800s

MOTH TRAPPING 2003

FEED THE BIRDS NOT THE RATS



REPORTS: WALKS & TALKS

- AUTUMN VISIT TO PUTTENHAM PLACE

- A REFRESHINGLY DIFFERENT TALK

- WYCOMBE AT NIGHT



WYCOMBE WATCH REPORTS

WWG WORK PARTY REPORTS

- CHAIRBOROUGH

- GOMM'S WOOD

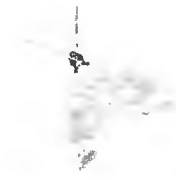


WEB & EMAIL ADDRESSES

NOTICE BOARD

- DID YOU SEE ?

- CONTACT LIST - YOUR GUIDE TO LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS



**JANUARY
2004**

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WYCOMBE



WILDLIFE GROUP

Wycombe Wildlife Group is a voluntary organization the **OBJECT** of which is to further the ecology and knowledge of the urban and fringe areas of **High Wycombe**, Buckinghamshire; to conserve, protect, restore and create wildlife habitats; to encourage colonization and survival of all plants and animal life in such areas and to promote the education of the public in matters pertaining to wildlife and its conservation.

Within **Wycombe District** the Group aims to :

- Survey and map wildlife habitats.
- Protect important wildlife sites.
- Study wildlife sites and associated flora & fauna.
- Manage wildlife sites and associated flora & fauna.
- Stimulate public interest in wildlife & its conservation.
- Encourage wildlife gardening.
- Co-operate with other groups of similar aims.
- Promote the objectives of the Group.
- Encourage active participation in conservation of all persons & groups & provide appropriate training to that end.

(A detailed copy of the aims of the group is available on request)

Wycombe Wildlife News is published 3 times a year to promote the Group's activities and inform members and the general public of its progress.

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Wycombe Wildlife Group is a Registered Charity

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EDITORIAL- 2003 - The Year of the Insects

Intrigued by the daily appearance of a wren, foraging among the stems of a 5ft tall artemisia, and then by dunnocks doing likewise, I went into the garden armed with a hand-lens to find out what they were eating. Watching with binoculars from the house had proved useless: the birds' pecking movements were too quick, and their prey too small.

At first I could find nothing. Then I noticed the stems were busy with dozens of small black insects, which I took to be tiny spiders moving up and down. But closer inspection revealed them to be aphids, not the sort which cluster on the heads of tansy in summer, which had been enjoyed by house sparrows, nor those which had coated the undersides of rose bay willowherb leaves earlier in the season and had attracted first swarms of hoverflies, then a party of long-tailed tits. These were more mobile and it was November.

Other insects still around in November have been flies, wasps and biting insects. On the windowpanes at night there have been lacewings and a parasitic wasp - a large reddish-brown Ichneumon. It has caused me to dub 2003 the "Year of the Insects"

Insects are not the only ones to have had a successful time in 2003. Wycombe Wildlife Group has achieved a lot, and you can read reports of our many activities in this issue.

No one ever knows what a New Year may hold, but I wish you a happy one. Why not make a New Year resolution to come along to one of our meetings and make them even more successful?

P.S. After disappearing into a black hole, our website is now back & running. Why not pay it a visit to find out even more about Wycombe's wildlife?

Pat Morris

We welcome the following new members,
who have joined since September 2003 :

Mrs J Gee, Mr & Mrs M.A.Campbell

and look forward to meeting them at future events.

Views expressed in the newsletter are those of the authors and not necessarily those of the Group.
For the purposes of management of the Group membership information is held on computer.

News from Common Wood

Penn & Tylers Green Residents Society have succeeded in their campaign to save Common Wood from fragmentation, and they are now the owners of 237 acres of ancient woodland, and two adjoining fields.

The orange lady bird (right) like the cream spot and 18-spot ladybirds has creamy-white spots.



Wood Cauliflower fungus (*Sparassis crispa*) Yellowish-fawn & found at base of conifers

It was good news to learn in June 2003 that the Penn and Tylers Green Residents Society had succeeded in their campaign to save Common Wood from fragmentation, and that they are now the owners of 237 acres of ancient woodland, and two adjoining fields. They had been awarded a grant of £549,000 by the Heritage Lottery Fund, and a further £35000 from the Onyx Environmental Trust, through the Landfill Tax Credit scheme, and raised nearly £90,000 from donations from the local community, all of which had enabled them to buy the Wood.

Wycombe Wildlife Group supplied records of flora & fauna to support the application for Heritage Lottery Funding, and these more than doubled those already held at the County Museum.

Events during 2003

Two major events were held by Wycombe Wildlife Group at Common Wood in 2003. The first, on May 17th, was a walk led by Frances and Roger Wilding of Wycombe Wildlife Group, to show people the varied flora and to listen to birdsong. In spite of steady rain 26 walkers turned up, and were delighted as they stood in an aspen grove to hear the song of blackcap and willow warbler, as well as that of avian residents, like the robin, in other areas. More than 30 new species were added to the list of flora during the walk, some ten of them grasses identified by grass specialist Angus Idle. By the end of the morning the sun had come out, leaving participants well-rewarded both by the weather & the location, for their perseverance.

The second event held by Wycombe Wildlife Group was a fungi-spotting exercise, on October 11th 2003.

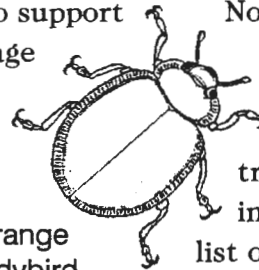
The long, hot summer, and lack of rain made the presence of many fungi unlikely, but in spite of this 49 species were found, thanks to the enthusiasm of the 31 people attending. "31 pairs of eyes see more than one" said Roger. Toddlers as well as adults spread out and were soon discovering specimens, and showing them to leader Roger Wilding, and Penny Cullington, from the Bucks Fungus Group. Fungi included the sponge-like Wood Cauliflower, growing at the base of a huge Douglas fir, and several Amanitas, Russulas and Boletes.

Not all the fungi discovered were new to the wood - the Wood Cauliflower, for example, had been found under the same tree the previous year, but 10 invertebrates were added to the list of species, thanks to the presence of John Partridge, spider expert. A late addition was the Orange ladybird (*Halyzia 16-guttata*) which feeds on mildew, and is particularly associated with sycamores. It was found on a log, just before everyone left.

This year

Currently, Wycombe Wildlife Group are involved in a systematic ecological survey of Common Wood, using GPS to help them, and they will complete the task of surveying and recording by August. Their findings will be used to help form a management plan for Common Wood, which will ensure both the well-being of its wildlife and its enjoyment by humans. Ecological data will also enable Wycombe Wildlife Group to give valuable advice to local schools using the wood as an educational resource while they pursue their studies for the National Curriculum

Pat



Orange ladybird

Mary saves a blue-tit

Last year it was a tiny robin in my pond – this year a newly fledged bluetit fell in. Fortunately I heard the commotion and thought that Simba, the cat next door, had caught a bird. At first I could see nothing, then there was a small splashing noise, and the baby rose out of the water and then sank again – obviously for the second if not the third time.

There was too much waterweed to use the net, & I had to lie full-length on my tummy on stones, logs, and even nettles, to reach over & grab him.

He was a woeful sight – tendrils of weed wrapped round him, and, of course, soaked. His eyes were closed and he looked dead but then I saw his little chest moving. Quickly, I untwined the weed, dried him gently with a tissue and he moved feebly. My finger was too big for him, but I found a flowerpot with soil, and perched him on the rim. He was alarmingly weak, swaying forward and back, his eyes closed, occasionally falling back into the flowerpot, and I had to pick him up and put him back.

I had no idea what to do – the kiss of life would have blown him away, so I phoned St Tiggywinkles Wildlife Hospital, who always know the answer. I explained what had happened, & the state of the baby bird, and also that

Simba was watching, licking his lips, & there was no sign of the baby's parents.

They told me to bring him in immediately; in a box with holes in the lid and lots of scrunched up paper: to keep him in the dark, as that would calm him.

I started my mercy dash across Bucks, most of the way in ominous silence, and I thought I would arrive with a little corpse. However, when I was nearly there I heard a tiny cheep from the box, then more, and when we arrived there were continuous, lively chirps coming from inside.

In the waiting room when the receptionist removed the lid everyone shrieked with laughter because the small patient jumped up like a jack-in-the-box on to the top layer of paper, and demanded loudly to be fed, working his tiny wings up and down madly. As the nurse bore him away we could hear his voice fading into the distance.

Later, I was told he was eating & growing well and would be freed in a nice spot with no cats!

I discovered that this year is a very bad one for young bluetits, so I was even more glad that I had snatched one from the jaws of death!

Mary Williams

Bring him in immediately
in a box



The small patient jumped up like a jack-in-the-box on to the top layer of paper, and demanded loudly to be fed,

Wildlife Garden Restored

On 15th October, 2003, the wildlife gardening team returned to the Demonstration Wildlife Garden at Plant & Harvest (formerly West Wycombe Garden Centre) to restore it after a year's neglect. Sadly, Plant and Harvest now require most of the garden for their own developments, so the team's activity was limited to

trimming the hedgerow, cutting down the grass and any unsightly foliage, and filling the pond in the original wildlife garden, which was set up in 1993. A final tidy-up on 26th November had to be cancelled due to torrential rain. No further maintenance will take place until March 2004.

Pat



Bee & Wasp Wall Arises from the Rubble

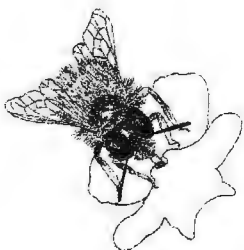


Bee & Wasp Mansion
now at Foxes Pieces
School

Under the roof:
Oxford Bee Company
Bee Nest Tubes

Centre compartment:
Filled with leaves
and straw for insects
like ladybirds & lacewings
to hibernate in.

Lower Wood Block:
Drilled with holes for
bees to nest in.



Red Mason Bee
(*Osmia rufa*),
(one of the species that
will use OBC tubes)
collecting nectar.

Stimulated by an article in the national Urban Wildlife News in 1994 about a bee & wasp wall built by a German Group, we constructed one at our Sheepridge Educational Nature Reserve. It was moderately successful as a number of bees nested in one of the drilled logs in the wall in the first year, but all was ruined by a thoughtless person who, too lazy to go to the Council dump, which was free in those days, dumped a lot of builders rubble on the wall.

Despite this set back the Group did not give up on bees and when I learnt of the work of the Oxford Bee Company (OBC) I purchased a set of their bee tubes and constructed a bee & insect "mansion" which was erected in the Group's wildlife garden at the West Wycombe Garden Centre. With the change of ownership at the Garden Centre we have had to give up part of our wildlife garden but I rescued the Bee & Insect Mansion and have donated it to Foxes Piece School for their Learning Garden project. We have also produce a leaflet on "Welcoming Bees & Wasps to your Garden".

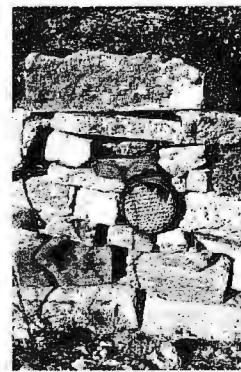
Earlier this year (2003) the OBC, which is a commercial offshoot from a Research Department at an Oxford College, wrote to their customers asking for volunteers to put up some experimental bee nests to enable them to study the distribution of solitary bees and their parasites. I volunteered to take some and receive two nest sets.

As the tubes in the Bee & Insect mansion had been used last year I had intended to put one in our wildlife garden at West Wycombe but with its demise I had to put one in my own garden and one at Sheepridge.

Consequently I have started to build another Bee & Wasp Wall at Sheepridge – making use of the rubble kindly dumped by that thoughtless householder. I built enough to take the experimental nest and have added to it each time I visit the reserve & hope to finish it off over the winter. I have also incorporated one or two nice large logs from one of the trees felled on the reserve earlier this year. I did drill a few holes in these logs

with a portable electric drill, but these drills are not really up to this tough task, so I will take the logs home and get the job done with my mains power drill.

The bees have shown no interest in the nest in my garden but I am pleased to report that



OBC nest in the party

constructed bee & wasp wall

two tubes were used in the one at Sheepridge. I will be sending one of these to the Oxford Bee Company

for them to see what has used it. I am also pleased to report that one or two of the few holes I was able to drill in the logs last year have also been used.

I was disappointed with the take up of these tubes but, in their latest Letter, OBC say "From discussions with volunteers it appears that the occupancy has been variable, with some of you reporting that few if any bees take up residence, & some sending us photos of nearly full nests".

OBC will be reporting their findings to their volunteers and I will pass on any interesting facts in future newsletters.

You can find out more about the Oxford Bee Company by visiting

www.oxbeeco.com

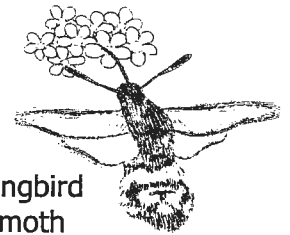
Wildlife Roundup 2003

Here is a list of people who have sent in observations of wildlife in their area of Wycombe, during 2003:

Stan Armstrong (SA)	Eric Britnell (EB)	Pauline Cauvain (PC)	Patrick Frizoni (PF)
Peter Hazzard (PH)	Michael Hyde (MH)	Angus Idle (AI)	Pat Morris (PM)
Malcolm Pusey (MP)	Harry Wheate (HW)	Frances Wilding (FW)	

and this is what they had to say (working up the food chain)

- Slugs and Snails: there didn't seem to be many earlier in the year (HW)
- Fewer grasshoppers and crickets (EB, HW)
- Leaf-cutter bee (*Megachile centuncularis*) nest discovered in roof (MH)
- Wasps: A lot of wasp queens in spring; hardly any workers in September (AI, HW, FW)
- Quite a few butterflies; in particular Small Tortoiseshell, Red Admiral, Comma and Painted Lady, after a very poor early season (HW). A number of Clouded Yellows (EB)
- Moths: hardly any Silver Y moths (HW) A few (PM, FW)
A couple of Hummingbird Hawkmoths (HW) Many sightings (EB, PM, FW)
- No baby frogs hopping about round pond this summer (PF)
- No hedgehogs this year (HW) Only one (PM) Quite a few (FW)
- Yellow-necked Mouse in garden (SA)
- Plenty of rats (HW) Two dead ones earlier in year (PM)
- Bats: I haven't seen as many bats this year (HW). Very disappointing numbers of bats (PF). Only one, but fairly often (FW)
- Bluetits: Bat box built two years ago from Newsletter plan had a bluetit's nest in it this year (MP).
- Bluetits broke up mealworms to feed their young (PM) Plenty of tit species in garden (FW)
- Pair of nuthatches visiting one of my seed feeders every day (MP October)
- House sparrows and Dunnocks in garden (PM, HW, FW)
- Have not heard any skylarks in the field at the end of my garden this year (HW)
- Blackbird with about 5 white patches outside office in Penn (PC)
- Trout: stranded trout had to be electronically stunned and taken in tanks from the dried-up Hitchen stream (Hughenden) and released into the River Wye below Pann Mill (PH) (06.11.03)
- Water shrimps below the dam at Hughenden unlikely to survive (EB)
- Parent swans, Hero and Leander abandoned their cygnets at Hughenden when the stream started drying up, and took up residence at Wycombe Abbey lake (EB)
- Their abandoned cygnets Dizzy and Mary were taken back into care by Swan Lifeline, at Eton, in November. They will probably be released at Marlow (EB)
- Swan pair David & Amanda & their five cygnets continue residing at the Dyke, on the Rye (EB)



Hummingbird
Hawkmoth

In General:

Drought . Highest summer temperatures ever recorded.

Best autumn colours ever (PM, FW and others). Rowan and Cotoneaster berries plentiful in gardens, also Spindle berries magnificent

An astonishing variety of comments. Thanks to all the contributors

Pat Morris

Hollow Lane Revisited

In the last issue we reprinted an article about "Hollow Lane" which High Wycombe Natural History Society visited in c 1878.

Lorna Cassidy has identified this lane and walked it with Pat Morris

On Friday 7th November 2003, Lorna and I decided to re-visit Hollow Lane.

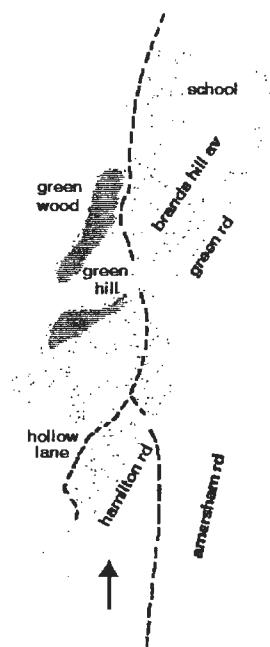
It was obvious that the bottom of the Lane had been altered, to accommodate new housing on both sides. The path had been surfaced & separated off by new larch-lap fencing. None of this reflected what it must have been like 125 years ago. The hedgerow on one side dripped with the rose hips mentioned in the extract, and was festooned with ivy & old man's beard. Then as we rounded the corner, the way reverted to one's expectations of a sunken path: high banks on either side, at times rising to an awesome 3 metres or more, especially on the south-east side, with a stony base, about a metre or so wide. Nothing remained of the "floral beauties" mentioned in the extract, and we only spotted a single Herb-Robert (*Geranium robertianum*) in flower along with the fading foliage of Dog's Mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*) and

Wood Melick (*Melica uniflora*). There were, however, massive and twisted roots of the hedgerow trees winding down from hedgerow top to flinty bottom, surely relics of the past? However, there was garden rubbish, a green plastic chair, a pink upholstered armchair with protruding springs, and builders' rubble, thrown over the boundary fence from the housing on the other side. Definitely not the sort of thing which would have been found 125 years ago, but a symptom of modern times.

In spite of the fly tipping, the beauty of the trees above in their hues of yellow, gold and russet, with their impressive gnarled roots made this visit extremely rewarding.

It is possibly part of the ancient Drovers' Way - Green Street - from Hazlemere to Frogmoor, maybe it is a route that Wycombe Wildlife Group might retrace in its entirety one day.

Pat



Wood Melick
(*Melica uniflora*)

Moth Trapping 2003

During 2003, Wycombe Wildlife Group held six moth trapping sessions, four in members' gardens, the other two on Nature Reserves.

It was too cold on the first, at Sheep-ridge Nature Reserve on National Moth Night, April 12th, to attract more than three moth species. On the other hand, on September 19th, with the advantage of the more powerful light traps of the County Moth Recorder, Martin Albertini, and colleague Peter Hall, and better weather. 36 different moth species were noted. at Amersham Field Study Centre (AFSC). In gardens, from 11 to 18

moth species were recorded, including the Phoenix, Brimstone, Angle Shades and Lime Hawk-moth. All the moths were photographed by Stan Armstrong and shown later at his talk in November.

Many thanks to the hosts of the moth trapping sessions, including Nick Laphorn of AFSC, for their great hospitality. Thanks, too, to the moth trapping team of Paul and Ellis Bowyer, new supporters Mick and Wendy Campbell, Stan Armstrong, Eric Britnell and Martin and Peter for their dedication and expertise. We look forward with pleasure to the new summer season.

Pat



Phoenix moth
(*Eulithis prunata*)

Full list of
flora & fauna
on our web site

Feed the Birds not the Rats

A startling title - but it has caught your attention!

These days, with the increasing rat problem throwing uneaten toast, or any other food, out on the lawn is questionable so why not make this simple toast / sliced bread holder for feeding your birds.

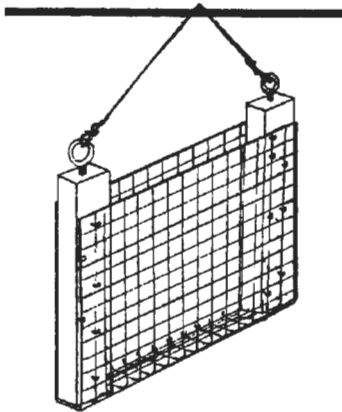
As you can see from the sketch (left) it is made from 2 pieces of 15mm X 6mm (1"x1/2") wood 150mm (6") long. A strip of 300mm X 150mm (12" x 6"). (5mm) wire mesh is folded into a U shape and fixed to the two wooden ends by means of small wire staples (the U shaped staples). If you have access to a heavy duty stapler this may also do the job (ordinary

weight staples will not be strong enough). If you have problems with squirrels you may need to staple two thin strips of the wire mesh down the wooden sides.

Insert two strong ring eyes in the tops of the two end pieces & suspend by means of a loop of strong garden wire.

It will be interesting to see if squirrels can fish the slices of toast out through the narrow opening at the top - do let us know if this happens. If they do, we will have to devise some way of closing this gap.

Maurice



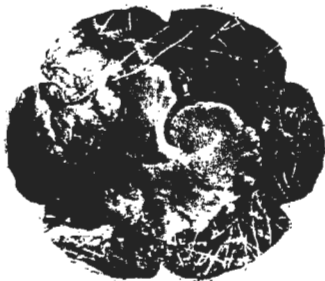
Toast holder

Autumn Visit to Puttenham Place

Beefsteak or Ox-tongue
Fungus (below)
(*Fistulina hepatica*)

Found mainly on oak.
Hoof or bracket shaped.
Red in colour looks and
feels like a beefsteak.

Edible, but
nothing special

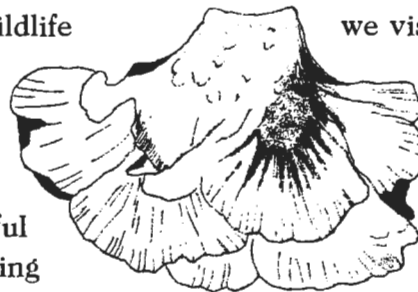


Members of Wycombe Wildlife Group set out for their final farmland visit at Puttenham Place on Saturday, 25th October 2003.

Although it was a beautiful sunny morning, this meeting was poorly supported, with only four people (& two dogs!).

It was disappointing that all the hedgerows except one had been cut & this had deprived birds & small mammals of valuable winter food, for there were very few hips, haws and ivy flowers left. Therefore, as expected, there was little bird activity.

Leader Roger Wilding decided to concentrate on looking for fungi in adjoining woodland instead. First of all



Giant Polypore
(*Meripilus giganteus*)

we visited Brook Wood, where Roger identified 12 species of fungi, among them the Beefsteak Fungus (*Fistulina hepatica*), and the Oyster Mushroom

(*Pleurotus ostreatus*). In Pugh's Wood, our second

target, we found 6 further species, the most impressive being the Giant Polypore (*Meripilus giganteus*)

As we emerged from Pugh's Wood, we saw a hare, the second time we have seen one here.

Thank you, Roger, for a most enjoyable morning.

Pat

Note: Fungi get common names The lack of common names for many species of fungi, even very common ones, has made it difficult for many people to remember the names of the fungi they find.

At last the problem has been resolved with the publication of a definitive list of common

names for most of the fungi likely to be identified by all but the very experienced mycologists. A copy of the list can be downloaded as a PDF file from the British Mycological Society website:

<http://www.britmycolsoc.org.uk/>

Roger

Wycombe at Night

Another very different talk.

Members had been given a foretaste of Stan Armstrong's photographic skills at a meeting held in February 2003, so a longer talk to the Group was booked for Monday 10th November, & held at the Environment Centre.

Stan started off by talking about the "scary" element of night-time. A keen astronomer, he showed shots of the sky at night and a lunar eclipse, & played bat calls. He then described how, when he set up a home security system he became aware of nocturnal visitors to his garden: foxes & badgers. He began feeding them, and experimenting to discover their likes & dislikes: tinned dog food, NOT carrots, potatoes cooked but not raw, even bread spread with red salmon (what luxury!).

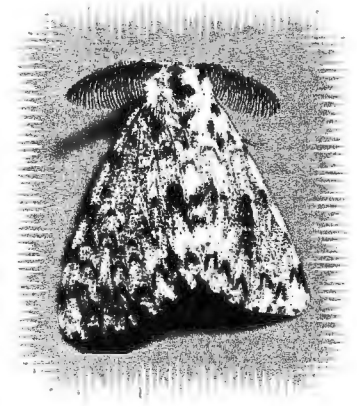
Having established that badgers liked bananas and peanuts, his intellectual curiosity encouraged him to set tests

for them: could they learn to open bananas and extract the contents of monkey-nuts for themselves? Half-opened bananas and monkey nuts proved that they could. All of this was meticulously filmed in close-up and shown to us during his talk.

Stan has been an enthusiastic supporter of Wycombe Wildlife Group's moth-trapping programme, and his obvious appreciation of the beauty and variety of moths was also ably demonstrated by his superbly detailed photography of wing patterns and jewel-like eyes, the comb-like antennae of the Black Arches, the long proboscis-like palpi of the "Snout", and the delicate grace of the Swallow-tailed, for example.

It was a fascinating and very different evening.

Pat



Black Arches
(*Lymantria monacha*)
Showing the comb-like antennae

A Refreshingly Different Talk

The talk by Carolyn Ryall on flora through the eyes of a herbalist at the October members' meeting was certainly refreshingly different. First we were treated to a mildly alcoholic dose of Echinacea tincture (which I personally thought was an improvement on the normal shop-bought product). This was followed by a cup of tea made from an infusion of dried ribwort plantain, elder flowers and thyme. (I don't think you'll find that mix on the shelf in a shop selling herb teas.)

Carolyn brought along a selection of plants commonly used in herbal medicine including yarrow, balm, borage & ground-ivy. She explained the use to which these and some of our common garden weeds such as cleavers, chickweed, curled dock & shepherd's-purse are put.

Reference was made in the talk to an extremely interesting book entitled *A Modern Herbal* by Mrs M. Grieve that was originally published just over 70 years ago. This book contains lots of information about both the old and new medical usage of many plants. Whilst many of the historic medical uses of plants are no longer relevant, the book does show that many of the current uses go back centuries.

I don't think I can recall any other WWG talk which has generated so much audience-participation and interest as this one. Not only did we forego the usual break half way through the evening but it proved quite difficult to stop the flow of questions when it reached 10pm.

Roger



Echium vulgare
(Viper's bugloss)

Echis = a viper
So called because the seeds are said to resemble a snake's head

(M. Grieve -
A Modern Herbal)

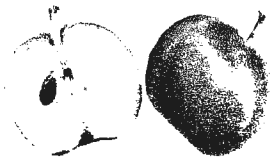
Reports: WATCH Meetings



A Fun Day with
Wycombe Rangers.



People took it in turns to
wind the handle



Six staff from
Wycombe District Council
help on the
Chairborough Nature
Reserve
under the
Council's Employee
Volunteering Scheme.

September meeting: Funges Meadow

The September meeting was held at Funges Meadow, and combined with the Fun Day by Wycombe Rangers.

The afternoon began with Hay Making - a few frogs and toads were found among the grass and were put beside the pond for safety. Then there was pond dipping, followed by a BBQ ready to get out the bat detectors at dusk. The meeting was very well attended, it was a lovely day again, and everyone enjoyed themselves.

Wendy

October meeting: Apple juicing in Downley

We met on a perfect autumn afternoon, warm and still.

Our first job was to get some apples! The best tree on the common bears a variety called 'Rita's Robin' locally and we used a twenty-foot litter picking stick, kindly provided by Wycombe District Council Rangers, to shake the tree. We were soon dodging a shower of large red and green striped apples cascading down.

Then on to our hosts Bill and Lynne who had given us permission to use their large back garden. Jack soon set up the apple press. Meanwhile the apples were washed thoroughly with a hose and we were ready to begin. The clean apples were cut in half and fed into the hopper at the top of the press. People took it in turns to wind the handle and, hey presto! The minced apples dropped into the barrel of the press.

When the barrel was full we pushed the screw part over the top of the apples and started to turn. At first, just a slow trickle of juice appeared and then, all of a rush, it started pouring out of lip at the bottom into a bucket.

We tried three different varieties of juice, each person sipping appreciatively. It was a bit like a wine tasting. We all agreed that Rita's Robin juice was the nicest. Each family took at least a bottle home.

Kristina

Reports: Work Parties

WDC staff volunteer for site
maintenance tasks

Six staff from Wycombe District Council have helped with site maintenance tasks on the Chairborough Nature Reserve under the Council's Employee Volunteering Scheme. The work undertaken has included cutting back brambles encroaching on open grassland and removing holly threatening to dominate some of the scrub areas.

All of those who took part said they enjoyed their day and hoped they would have further similar opportunities in the future.

Roger

Earthworks at Cock Lane

We could not have had better weather for the mid-November work-day at Gomm's Wood off Cock Lane when members of Earthworks Conservation Volunteers helped WWG with tasks on the site. An area of scrub below the lower terrace (an area of land earmarked for future cemetery use) was cleared to open up the former view point over Gomm's Wood and to let more light in to the adjacent bank. Removal of brambles from the bank should encourage the development of a more diverse ground flora in this sunny location.

Whilst on site, one of the team helped me replace a damaged railway sleeper in one of the flights of steps leading from the lower terrace into Gomm's Wood.

At the end of the afternoon as the daylight faded we all enjoyed baked potatoes cooked in the bonfire embers.

Roger

The Group thanks everyone who contributed to a successful autumn season:

Speakers Carolyne Ryall and Stan Armstrong;

Walk Leaders Roger and Frances Wilding, and WDC Ranger Phil Horwood whose walk at Spade Oak (22.11.03) took place in steady rain.

Thanks too to Chris, PHAB mini-bus driver, who safely conducted members to Wisley RHS Gardens, and back (20.09.03) The visit was a great opportunity to discover which plants give good autumn colour, and to do some shopping.

Wycombe Wildlife WATCH meets on the second Saturday each month. To join in the WATCH meetings, which are open to children between the ages of 8-12, please contact :

Wendy Thomas on 01494 814 068
or Julie (WDC Ranger) on 01494 421 825

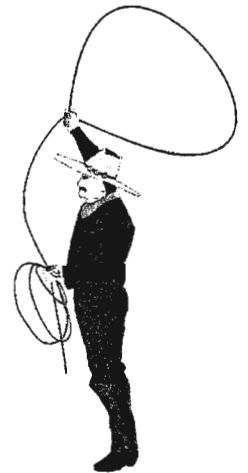
Thanks

WATCH

Web Links Request

www.wycombewildlifegrp.co.uk

We are keen to create reciprocal links with other environmentally-minded local groups' web sites. If your group would be happy for us to display your web address on our site please use the "Contact Us" page to let us know.



www. & e-mails

Our web sites :

www.wycombewildlifegrp.co.uk

www.comunigate.co.uk/bucks/wwg

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Chairman WWG

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HP12 3PA

Would you like to join us ?

If so complete this application (or a photocopy) and send to :
WWG Membership Secretary
(see front page for the address)

I / We wish to join WWG

Name: _____

Address: _____

Tel.no. _____

Amount enclosed, (please circle)
£5 (Individual/Family/School member)
£2.50 (Student or Retired Person)





WILDLIFE NOTICE BOARD



Did You See ?



October

Last Speckled Wood butterfly - Hazlemere 16/10/03

Last Red Admiral butterfly- Pat's SU874940 23/10/03

November

Roe Deer - Holmer Green 05/11/03

Feathered Thorn Moth - Pat's SU874940 12/11/03

Two Red Kites attacking a 3rd Hughenden Park

Red Kite - Marlow 28/11/03 20/11/03

Snipe & 37 other bird species and Wasps Nest

- Spade Oak, Little Marlow, 22/11/03

Pine Ladybird, South Place, Marlow, 28/11/03

(More sightings are given on our web site)



The WWG Contact list :



Chairman & Site Management Co-ordinator :
Roger Wilding 01494 438374

Newsletter Editor : Pat Morris, 01494 529484

Membership Secretary:

James Donald 01494 637877

Treasurer : Peter Hazzard,

Wycombe wildlife WATCH:

Wendy Thomas, 01494 814068

Biological surveys: Angus Idle, 01494 563673

Education Officer & Assistant Editor :

Maurice Young, 01628 472000

Project Officer : Post vacant



Contacts for Wildlife, Conservation & Environmental Groups - Wycombe District



Bassetsbury Group	Nigel Mossman	01494 462059
Berks, Bucks & Oxon Wildlife Trust	(Oxon Office)	01865 775476
(South Bucks Region, Vol. Reserves Manager)	Maurice Young	01628 472000
Booker Common & Woods Preservation Society	Ron Walker	01494 444824
British Naturalists' Assoc. S. Bucks Branch	Ann Jones	01494 675196
British Trust for Conservation Volunteers	David Wilding	01296 330033
British Trust for Ornithology (Regional Rep.)	Mick A'Court	01296 623610
Bucks Invertebrate Group	Mike Palmer	01296 624519
Bucks Badger Group	Mike Collard	01494 866908
Bucks Bird Club	Roger Warren	01491 638544
Bucks Community Association	Francis Gomme	01844 274865
Butterfly Conservation	Jaci Beaven	01494 444158
Chiltern Society	Angus Idle	01494 563673
Chilterns Chalk Streams Officer	Sarah Wallbank	01844 271308
Chilterns Conference AONB	Steve Rodrick	01844 271300
Chiltern Woodlands Project	John Morris	01844 271315
Council for the Protection of Rural England (m' Chilterns branch.)	Sandy MacFarlane	01844 343004
English Nature Conservation Officer Bucks.	Jenny Young	01635 268881
Frieth Natural History Society	Alan Gudge	01494 881464
Grange Action Group	Dave Wainman	01494 716726
High Wycombe Society	Frances Presland	01494 523263
Lane End Conservation Group	Bärbel Cheeseman	01494 882938
Marlow Society	Michael Hyde	01628 485474
National Trust	(Office)	01494 755573
Pann Mill Group	Robert Turner	01494 472981
Ramblers Association	J.L. Esslemont	01494 881597
Red Kites in the Chilterns Officer	Cathy Rose	01844 271306
Princes Risborough Countryside Group	Francis Gomme	01844 274865
Saunderton Wildlife Sanctuary	Margaret Baker	01844 342188
St. Tiggywinkles	Les Stocker	01844 292292
Swan Lifeline	Tim Heron	01753 859397
South Bucks Organic Group	Howard Raimbach	01494 531214
World Wide Fund for Nature	Valerie Lambourne	01494 443761
The Environment Centre on Holywell Mead (Manager)	Jane Campbell	01494 511585
Wycombe District Council Ranger Service	Julie Hopton	01494 421825
Wycombe Youth Action	Lynda Cockerell	01494 447250



If you have any queries about **BATS** contact Maurice Young 01628 472000
or the **WDC Rangers** : 01494 421824

