

Issue 44

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**APRIL  
2004**

**FIFTEEN YEARS OF ACTING FOR WILDLIFE**

- TWENTY KEY ACTIVITIES

**THE ENVIRONMENT CENTRE ON HOLYWELL MEAD**

- THEMED DAYS & WEEKS, EXHIBITIONS

**SCHOOL VISITING TEAM**

- WYCOMBE BEEKEEPERS' ASSOCIATION

**SLOW-WORMS**

- AN ATTRACTIVE ASSET TO THE GARDEN FAUNA

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**WEB & EMAIL ADDRESSES**

**NOTICE BOARD**

- DID YOU SEE ?

- CONTACT LIST - YOUR GUIDE TO LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS



Telephone : See the WWG  
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**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**  
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## EDITORIAL

Wycombe Wildlife Group is fifteen years old! The Group was officially launched on 23<sup>rd</sup> April 1989, when 100 people participated in a walk round Keep Hill. The Group has developed steadily since then, and a huge variety of activities have been on offer. We have listed 20 of them to give you some idea of our achievements over the past 15 years.

Those of you who attend the AGM will be invited to select the ones you think contributed most to the Group's aims - so be prepared!

During the past 15 years, though I have been involved in almost all the activities listed, and have a number of favourites, there are two of which I am particularly proud. One is the Environment Centre on Holywell Mead, for which, during the five-year planning stage, I supported every meeting. It gives me great satisfaction to read how well the Centre is flourishing, now it is established. When one adds all those using the Centre for meetings - probably 2500 - to the list of visitors using it for events during 2003, one can begin to realise what an asset it is to the local community.

The other activity is our Wildlife Gardening initiative, for which we set up a Demonstration Wildlife Garden at West Wycombe Garden Centre. The garden was developed and maintained for 10 years by a dedicated team of gardeners. It is most regrettable that a change of ownership at the Garden Centre made it impossible for Wycombe Wildlife Group to continue there. However, we now have the chance to move on, and, who knows, something better may present itself.

*Pat Morris*

**Membership Matters** Many thanks to those of you who completed and returned the questionnaire enclosed with the previous Newsletter.

Broadly speaking we seem to be meeting your needs and were very pleased to read the several complimentary comments about the Newsletter. Trustees will be considering all the comments made but an early change may be to when we hold our members meetings. It looks as though there is scope for us to try different days and times, so watch the programme carefully.

Congratulations to Roxanne Bligh of Marlow Infants' School whose name came out of the hat to win a year's free membership.

*James Donald*

We welcome the following new members, who have joined since January 2004:  
Miss Eva Wilding, Ms Evelyn, Mr D Witton, Ms Jean Hall  
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.

# Fifteen Years of Acting for Wildlife in Wycombe

## - Twenty Key Activities -

**WALKS:** Have taken place regularly at wildlife sites in Wycombe District since launch in 1989. Fauna and flora studied, and species recorded.

**TALKS:** On wildlife-related topics given by members, or by visiting speakers, since WWG's formation. Joint meetings with the National Trust at Hughenden, and BBOWT at Marlow.

**OUTSIDE VISITS:** To nature reserves as far afield as Christchurch, and other places of interest such as Wisley, Bulstrode Park and a farm near Great Missenden.

**WILDLIFE WATCH MARATHONS:** lasting 24 hours in 1991, 1992 and 1997 around Wycombe District, with flora and fauna recorded.

**BAT WEEK:** In partnership with WDC in 1991.



Bat Hibernaculum set up in a converted air raid shelter at Wycombe Air Park.

**MOTH TRAPPING:** Held on nature reserves and in members' gardens, since 1996.



**SURVEYING AND BIOLOGICAL RECORDING:** Carried out since formation of WWG to provide data for setting up and monitoring Nature reserves (e.g. Sands Bank) and protect threatened habitats. Data is now held on Recorder, a standard computerised wildlife recording system. Currently, full ecological survey of Common Wood for Penn and Tylers Green Residents Society.

**PUBLIC WILDLIFE SURVEYS:** Hedgehogs, garden ponds, muntjac deer and hedgerows.

**ON-GOING SITE MANAGEMENT:** Regularly at Chairborough Nature Reserve since 1989 & Sheepridge Nature Reserve since its creation in 1990, both places winning WDC Environmental Awards (1991 and 1992). Bass Silver Award for Sheepridge in 1994. Sheepridge pond restored in 2001. Work also undertaken at Cock Lane cemetery and the adjacent part of Gomm Wood since 1992.

**ONE-OFF PRACTICAL TASKS:** Pond restoration, river, woodland & grassland management since 1990's. Hedgerow creation, footpath renovation and step-building.

**WILDLIFE ALLOTMENT:** Developed at Bassetsbury Lane in 1997. Now being extended and various educational uses are planned.



**WILDLIFE HABITATS IN SCHOOLS:** Advice given on the creation of wildlife habitats in school grounds since 1991.

**WILDLIFE GARDEN CREATION:** Chair Museum in 1992. West Wycombe Garden Centre in 1993. Latter gained a runner-up award in the 1994 WDC Environmental Awards. Both gardens now discontinued.

**WILDLIFE GARDENING ADVICE:** Published regularly in the newsletter since 1991. Advisory wildlife gardening leaflets produced in 1993 reissued in 2002 along with a number of new leaflets. Open wildlife gardens, to obtain new ideas, sale of native plants.

**WWG OFFICE:** Shared with BTCV, set up at Bassetsbury Manor in 1991. Transferred to the WDC depot at Kingsmead until it ceased to be financially viable.

**WWG PROJECT OFFICERS:** First "paid" Project Officer appointed in 1991. Up to five appointed in later years to form a Team until core funding grant from WDC was withdrawn, and scheme could no longer be funded.

**WILDLIFE COMPETITIONS:** Wildlife Garden Competition started in 1995. Schools' Wildlife Corner Competition in 1995, Wildlife Art in 1996 and Wildlife Poetry & Photography in 1997.

**CHRISTMAS PARTIES:** Organised for members since 1993.



**ENVIRONMENT CENTRE ON HOLYWELL MEAD:** Opened in 2002.

**WWG NEWSLETTER:** Published three times a year since January 1990. Overall Winner of The Star Newsletter Awards in 1995.

Roger



The  
ENVIRONMENT  
CENTRE on Holywell Mead

**THEMED DAYS & WEEKS**

**Compost Week**

**Biodiversity Action Week**

**Archeology Week**

**Apple Day**

**EXHIBITIONS**

**Recycling**

**Gardening**

**Energy**

**Water**

## The Environment Centre on Holywell Mead

Wycombe Wildlife Group has supported The Environment Centre on Holywell Mead ever since the planning stage started, some 6 years ago. The Group remains fully supportive & has become one of its founder members.

Two of the Group's Trustees, James Donald, & Maurice Young, also serve on the Board of the Centre, so making sure that the interests of wildlife will be maintained at the Centre.

In December 2002 the Environment Centre on Holywell Mead welcomed the first visitors. Since then over 5000 have visited a variety of events which have included amongst many others: children's activity sessions, wildlife photographic exhibition, arts show, organic food and wine tasting, water festival, Romans on the Rye, composting workshops, a book reading, the recycling exhibition and permanent observation bee hive. (See below)

As the list of events might suggest, the Environment Centre is not just there to help you discover the 'green' environment. It seeks to link the importance of our whole environment into the needs of a successful economy, healthy and comfortable lifestyles,

accessible green and community spaces whilst maintaining a responsible and caring attitude to our limited natural resources.

The Environment Centre has some exciting plans for 2004 including:

- Themed days and weekends to include Compost week, Biodiversity Action week, National Archaeology week & Apple day.
- Exhibitions on subjects such as recycling, gardening, shopping, energy and water will also be on show periodically.

The Centre is currently seeking funds for an exhibition on Biodiversity that will enable you to examine just how day to day activity impacts on wildlife.


The centre is open to the public on Saturdays 11am - 3pm, Tuesdays 11.30am - 1.30pm and entry is free.


If you would like to learn more about the Centre or play your part in securing a better environment for future generations please get in touch with the Development Manager, Jane Campbell by e-mailing: [jane@ecobuzz.org.uk](mailto:jane@ecobuzz.org.uk)

### School Visiting Team

The permanent observation beehive at the Environment Centre was set up by High Wycombe Beekeepers' Association which visits schools to encourage children's awareness and appreciation of the value of bees.

Their School Visiting Team offers:

 to lend schools a copy of the 'Bees in the Curriculum' teaching pack and to sell them copies at a subsidised rate.

 to give free advice, help and resources including a visit to the school with an observation hive.

For further information or to book a visit please contact Mrs S. Chamberlin by phone at 01494 522082 or email: [sylvia.chamberlin@zen.co.uk](mailto:sylvia.chamberlin@zen.co.uk)

The web site [www.bees4kids.org.uk](http://www.bees4kids.org.uk) will give you information about the 'Bees in the Curriculum' teaching pack as well as information about bees and things for children to do.



## Slow-worms

An attractive asset  
to the fauna of  
a garden



Young slow-worms  
are between  
65mm (2½") to  
100mm (4") long  
and are a burnished  
gold colour.

In urban areas  
cats are the most  
serious predators  
of slow-worms,

Slow-worms  
feed mainly on  
slugs and snails  
but will take some  
insects and worms

By happy co-incidence in the week following a request from Pat, our editor, to write about constructing an outdoor vivarium, I received English Nature's latest report (no. 546) on the "Status of the Adder and the Slow-worm in England. I will, therefore, write more generally about the slow-worm, an attractive asset to the fauna of a garden, and show how you may encourage and observe these animals in your garden - or school grounds.

The slow worm (*Anguis fragilis*), is a legless lizard that can grow up to 450mm (18") in length, common in Wycombe District and found in the gardens of a number of our members and grounds of schools in the District. Males are a coppery-brown colour, while females are darker and often have a dark stripe down the back. Slow-worms are viviparous, i.e. the eggs develop within the female's body and the young are born alive. Although scaly they are smooth to the touch. If you pick one up do so by gently grasping the front end of the body for, like most lizards, they can shed their tail. This is a defence mechanism which leaves a predator occupied with a wriggling tail while they slide away into the undergrowth.

In urban areas cats are the most serious predators of slow-worms, but they can also fall prey to hedgehogs, rats & kestrels. Like all reptiles they have to bask in the sun the raise their body temperature and pieces of hardboard and sheets of corrugated iron in a sunny spot will attract slow-worms; as they can bask beneath these protected from predators.

If you want to know if you have slow-worms in your garden or (WWG Schools members) on your school field,

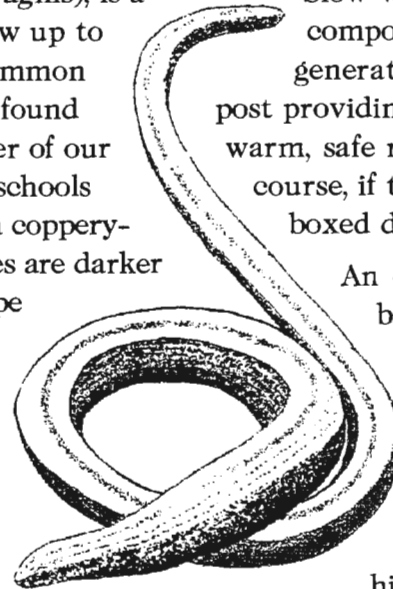
just lay out a few pieces of board (300mm [12"] square or larger) in warm, sunny spots on the edge of a flowerbed or in the uncut margins of the school field where the slow-worms can hunt for food and move around safely and look under them occasionally, on warm, sunny days. If you do find slow-worms using these "basking sheets", leave them in place, as they will be of great benefit to them.

Slow-worms also burrow into compost heaps - the heat generated by the rotting compost providing them with a lovely, warm, safe retreat - that is, of course, if the compost heap is not boxed down to the ground!

An outdoor vivarium is basically a rockery, in a sunny position, constructed so there are plenty of tunnels and crevices between and under the rocks where the reptiles can hide, plus a suitable basking area, which is boxed in so the animals can not escape. An essential addition to this is a shallow dish of water as slow-worms do drink.

The one advantage of a vivarium is that it can be covered with a net to protect the occupants from cats etc. The main disadvantage is that the supply of natural food will be limited. So gardeners, you will have to go out at night with a torch to collect slugs and drop them into the vivarium for your slow-worms. The long summer holiday brings about similar problems with "captive" animals - far better to enhance the appropriate areas of the school grounds to favour the slow-worms so they can be observed in their natural habitat.

Maurice.



## Other News in Brief:

### Big changes at Gomm Valley

## You'll Notice the Difference

If you go down to Gomm Valley Nature Reserve you'll be in for a big surprise. Large areas have been cleared by a tractor drawn scrub cutter and the reserve has been fenced so that it can be grazed. Grazing started early this year with four Exmoor ponies – part of the increasing range of livestock owned and used by BBOWT to graze its grassland reserves. If you do visit the reserve you are requested not to feed the ponies and, of course, to shut all gates.

*Maurice*



**Penn Wood Update :** The cattle returned to graze in Penn Wood this winter (2003/4) and the children of the Curzon C of E Combined School, Penn Street, have also been back to carry out their annual task of measuring sward height. They do this both before and after the cattle are present. The children were assisted in their investigations by James Donald and Angus Idle, from Wycombe Wildlife Group. Angus later collated the data, and James went to the school to help the children enter it on computer. As in the previous year (2002/3) heavy horses were used to transport timber to entrance gates, to be stacked ready for collection. So you'll notice the difference here too.

*Pat*

**Conservation News in Brief :** One out of three volunteers due to help at Chairborough LNR on 19<sup>th</sup> January under the WDC employee volunteering scheme attended and two out of six volunteers from Bucks University College due to help at Cock Lane on 25<sup>th</sup> February turned up.

*Roger*

**National Bumblebee Nest Survey :** If you would like to take part in this simple survey, visit the Rothamstead Research website ([www.rothamstead.ac.uk](http://www.rothamstead.ac.uk)) for further details, or obtain a survey form from National Bumblebee Nest Survey, Rothamstead Research, Harpenden, Herts AL5 2JQ.

(From "Bird Table " Issue 37).

**Members Meeting :** 19 members spent an excellent "Evening with the Chiltern Society" on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2004. During the meeting they watched three videos, one on the work of the Chiltern Society, one of Red Kites gliding (set to music), and one of the River Wye in flood, accompanied by quotations from Shakespeare. Many thanks to Dave Howarth, Paul Gotch and his companion, for yet another very different meeting. Chris Park's book "The Sacred Wye" is available from Paul at £7.00.

*Pat*

## Ancient Trees – do you know any?



There are  
thousands  
of ancient trees  
yet to be  
discovered

The Woodland Trust are mapping our ancient trees for, as they say on their web site "Ancient trees are a wonderful part of our natural world & heritage." and they are requesting help to find all the ancient trees across the UK.

Their records currently stand at 1156 ancient trees but they say "There are thousands of ancient trees scattered across our countryside yet to be 'discovered'. It's a huge task but with your help every tree recorded will help us build a better picture of Europe's remarkable trees." - - "Until the sheer extent of the UK's ancient tree population is properly understood there is a limit to what can be achieved. Mapping this extraordinary asset is a crucial step towards a more enlightened approach to our remarkable British treescape."

To find out more about the Ancient Tree Hunt and how to recognize an ancient tree go to:

[www.woodland-trust.org.uk/ancient-tree-hunt/aboutancienttrees/about.htm](http://www.woodland-trust.org.uk/ancient-tree-hunt/aboutancienttrees/about.htm)

## Supply & Demand

Not content with destroying Britain's peat bogs, and now somewhat restricted in their activities by increasing, but belated, legislation to protect these endangered habitats, the peat extracting companies are now set on destroying the peatlands of mainland Europe.

To meet the demand for peat from Britain's gardeners these companies are now importing peat from Eastern Europe including Countries such as Estonia and Latvia.

What do we have to do to get through to Britain's gardeners the consequences of their addiction to peat?

A healthy, developing peat bog extracts carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and locks it up for hundreds, often thousands of years helping reduce the 'greenhouse effect' of this gas.

Peat used in gardens breaks down rapidly in the soil returning the carbon dioxide, that was locked away over the last hundreds or thousands of years, to the atmosphere – so contributing to the greenhouse effect and global warming.

The commercial extraction of peat alters the water table of a peat bog so that it dries and its development ceases – along with its power to lock away more carbon dioxide.

The bog habitat supports a vast range of unique organisms, many of which can only survive in this habitat. The destruction of bogs wrought by peat extraction significantly reduces biodiversity and, if it continues, will lead to the extinction of many of the species dependant on, and only found, in this habitat.

The peat extraction industry has low labour requirements so the people of Eastern Europe will get little out of the export of peat from their countries.

The transport of peat over hundreds of miles from Eastern Europe to Britain, whether by road or rail, in itself, has considerable environmental costs.

The peat bogs of Estonia and Latvia are some of the most extensive and pristine remaining in Europe. Investment by western companies with their massive machinery will soon lead to the destruction of these few remaining true wildernesses.

It is all down to Britain's gardeners !! The peat supplying companies are quite happy to continue destroying these habitats – as long as they make a profit. The source of that profit is the British gardening fraternity. So gardeners "The buck stops with you", you and you alone can save these wonderful habitats from destruction.

So to the gardeners in High Wycombe and surrounding Districts I say "let's make Wycombe a peat free zone" and let us all go over to that far superior alternative, garden compost, and help solve the problem of all that green waste unnecessarily going to land fill.

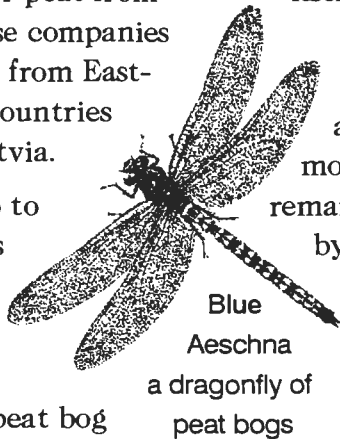
*Maurice Young*

To reduce green waste going to land fill and encourage composting Wycombe District Council has a Home Composting Scheme and can supply home composters at a discount price. For details telephone:

08708 494868

What do we have to do to get through to Britain's gardeners the consequences of their addiction to peat?

A healthy, developing peat bog extracts carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and locks it up for hundreds, often thousands of years helping reduce the 'greenhouse effect' of this gas.



Blue  
Aeschna  
a dragonfly of  
peat bogs

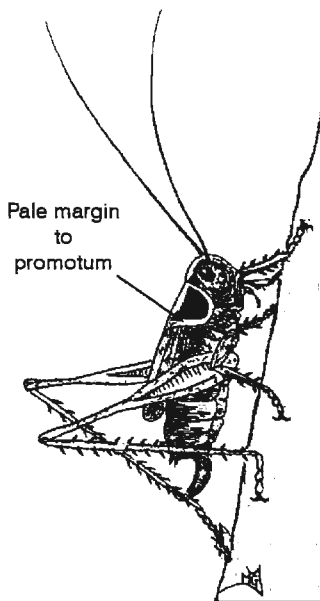


Sphagnum moss

Let's make  
Wycombe a  
"peat free zone"

- an illustrated talk by Sally Cuthbertson -

verges  
can provide  
a valuable haven  
for wildlife  
and serve as a  
corridor to other  
habitats



Roesel's bush  
cricket  
(*Metrioptera roeselii*)  
can be found on  
Chipp's Hill RNVR  
near  
West Wycombe

The popular image of roadside verges is a 'no-man's land' often monotonously dominated by coarse grasses or common weeds & a place to which traffic debris and discarded waste gravitate; where any wildlife has long since been run over, exterminated by salting, spraying, & mowing or frightened away by the noise! True – it is a comparatively hostile environment – but perhaps surprisingly, verges can provide a valuable haven for wildlife and serve as a corridor to other habitats such as hedges and ditches. Bucks CC plans to manage suitable stretches of verge in a more environmentally sensitive way with a view to conserving several important habitat types and a variety of plant and animal species. Formally adopted in 1994 the scheme now boasts 35 'Roadside Verge Nature Reserves' (RVNRs) throughout the county. A number of criteria have been used to designate sites. For example an unimproved chalk grassland habitat may be considered important for the rich diversity of its flowers and insects whereas disturbed grassland where dark mullein grows may deserve special attention if it harbours the nationally rare Striped Lychnis moth.

At our January meeting Assistant Countryside Officer for Biodiversity Sally Cuthbertson described how the project's main aim now is to maintain and enhance the conservation value of these sites by positive intervention management based on the results of surveying & monitoring the condition of each site and on maintaining species records. Sally described how roadsides have been traditionally managed in the past and how, in the 1970s, the highway authorities reduced seasonal cutting of verges to save money – with the consequent proliferation

of coarse grasses and umbellifers. Guidelines for the management of verges are now available for the various agencies, councils and landowners involved. They detail the frequency, timing & method of mowing, trimming and scrub clearance and will be tailored to meet the needs of individual sites. Marker posts will indicate the position of designated RVNRs. Sally described the RVNR near Woodrow Farm on the A404 to illustrate some of the types of conservation practices that are being implemented. She emphasised the importance of biological recording & stressed how volunteers can make a major contribution in this and other important aspects of the project's endeavours.

Recognised voluntary organisations are being invited to help in very practical ways by making regular monitoring visits to RVNRs to remove rubbish, by logging interesting species and by attending practical work tasks. Additionally they can help by keeping watch for any activities or proposals that might threaten the site and by identifying other potential RVNRs in their area. A report needs to be completed and returned to the Countryside Services each year.

The talk prompted a lot of questions from the audience and a proposal that we investigate further the possibility of WWG becoming involved in this work.

*Robert Raper*

Thanks to Sally Cuthbertson for  
a most interesting talk

*Note from Roger :*

*There are currently nine RVNRs on Wycombe Wildlife Group's patch. Three are on the A4010 near West Wycombe & Bradenham, two are on the A40 near West Wycombe and (Continued opposite —> )*



## Reports

### Walk at Little Marlow Gravel Pits

Seventeen adults, six children and two dogs gathered for the Wildfowl Walk at Little Marlow Gravel Pits on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> February 2004.

Under the expert leadership of WDC Ranger Phil Horwood, a total of 47 bird species were identified, among them a male pintail, repeatedly duck-diving, so that all could see his splendid tail projecting upright from the water, and a group of three male goldeneye. A kingfisher was also spotted through Phil's telescope, perched in some bushes.

Meanwhile, flocks of lapwings wheeled overhead, and, of course, there was the thrilling but no longer



unusual spectacle of a red kite patrolling the sky. As a further point of interest, Phil also showed us the remains of a reed-warbler's

nest in the rushes. At the beginning of the walk, he also pointed out a pair of ring-necked parakeets flitting through the treetops

In spite of a brief shower before the walk started, the weather remained dry throughout, a vast improvement on the previous walk in November 2003.

Thanks to you, Phil, for a most satisfactory morning's bird watching

A full list of species recorded at Little Marlow appears on our website.

### Talk: Birds of Wetland & Woodland

More than 60 people gathered for the combined BBOWT/ WWG talk at Liston Hall, Marlow, on 20<sup>th</sup> February 2004. The talk, on Birds of Wetland and Woodland, was given by the popular speaker, Victor Scott.

Victor divided his talk neatly into two sections. In the first, he dealt with the birds of wetland. By chance, many of these had been seen during a walk, led by Wycombe District Council Ranger, Phil Horwood, the previous Sunday, at Little Marlow Gravel Pits. They included shoveler, tufted duck, and pochard. After the break, Victor showed slides of woodland birds, pointing out that many of them were familiar visitors to gardens,

such as the robin, and wren. However, seeing them at their nests, as displayed by Victor, was not so common, the increasingly rare bullfinch being an example.

During questions, Victor was asked if he thought magpies were a threat to nesting birds, and he could only speak as he found: he witnessed two magpies raiding a mistle thrush nest, and took appropriate action to save the youngsters.

Appreciative thanks to Victor for a most pleasant evening, and also to his wife, Christine, who operated the projector, and had herself taken some of the slides. *Pat*



Lapwing  
(*Vanellus vanellus*)

centre picture  
Tufted duck  
(*Aythya fuligula*)

a pair of  
ring-necked  
parakeets  
flitted through  
the treetops



Shoveler  
(*Anas clypeata*)

*Piddington, one is at Chipps Hill, Piddington, one is in Winchbottom Lane, one is in Marlow, near the turning to Marlow Bottom, and one*

*is on the bend of the A404 near Woodrow. Anyone interested in helping in any way can contact me for further information.*



pencils made from recycled paper cups and biros made from computer printers

The group worked on Downley Common - a popular yearly event



Fixing up the posters

December 2003

The WATCH meeting for December 2003 was very well attended and held at the Environment Centre on the Rye

We made Christmas wreaths and decorations from natural materials that had been collected in the woods

The finished items were worthy of any florist's shop & looked very professional.

January 2004

The WATCH meeting for January 2004 was all about recycling and was held at the Environment Centre, where there was a whole wall devoted to how we can get rid of all the rubbish we accumulate.

The children played a game where you had to know where to get rid of your rubbish, and exactly what you could and could not recycle, and very clever at it they were, and obviously well-informed

Biffa donated to the meeting some leaflets, school workbooks, and also pencils made from recycled paper cups and biros from recycled computer printers. Thanks to Marketing Biffa. Everyone had great fun.



Making posters at the March meeting

February 2004

The WATCH meeting on February 14<sup>th</sup> was held on Downley Common for coppicing. The meeting was very well attended both by children and parents. Plenty of coppicing and clearing up was achieved, as it was a very pleasant afternoon. Tony from the Ranger Services gave a safety talk before the work began and was there to give a helping hand and advice throughout the afternoon. The group work on this area of Downley Common on a yearly basis and it is always a popular event.

A BBQ was held at the end of the meeting, with jacket potatoes and hot soup for all the workers.

*Wendy Thomas*

March 2004

For the WATCH meeting on March 13<sup>th</sup>, held at the Environment Centre, with the object of Frog Awareness Raising, Louise had prepared some blank posters, with a lively border of frogs, and books about them. There were also lots of frog handouts provided by the Ranger Service. With all this information our group of 10 or so children set to work to produce really eye-catching posters. These were laminated and had holes punched in each corner - very much teamwork.

Our group photocopied all the posters to take one home. Then we set off across the Rye to fix our work onto trees and fences along the Dyke

As soon as we had strung up the first one, it was being read by interested passers-by. The last poster warned motorists not to run frogs over, and this was displayed by Keep Hill Road. Thank you to all our Wildlife WATCH volunteers and to Jane Campbell for letting us use the comfortable facilities at the Environment Centre (and her string!)

*Kristina Frydberg*

Wycombe Wildlife WATCH Co-ordinator

## Celebrate Biodiversity Day!

### Come to the Launch of the **Community Wildlife Plan**

at The Environment Centre on Holywell Mead

10:00 am Saturday the 22<sup>nd</sup> of May

This event is hosted by the **Wycombe Wildlife Group**

Presentations on the Biodiversity Action Plan  
and local habitats will be followed by a visit to  
Funges Meadow Nature Reserve

**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

## WATCH



### Web Links Request

[www.wycombewildlifegrp.co.uk](http://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](http://www.wycombewildlifegrp.co.uk)

[www.comunigate.co.uk/bucks/wwg](http://www.comunigate.co.uk/bucks/wwg)

#### Committee members e-mail addresses :

Chairman : Roger Wilding:

[r.a.wilding@btopenworld.com](mailto:r.a.wilding@btopenworld.com)

#### Newsletter editor :

Pat Morris: [roymorris@freeuk.com](mailto:roymorris@freeuk.com)

Maurice Young :

[maurice@young9668.freeserve.co.uk](mailto:maurice@young9668.freeserve.co.uk)

#### snail-mail

Chairman.WWG  
129 Deeds Grove  
High Wycombe  
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 ?



### January

Sparrow hawk on fence in garden - South Place,  
Marlow - 05/01/04

### February

7-Spot ladybird - Sheraton Drive, High Wycombe  
- 09/02/04

Red admiral - Brands Hill Avenue - 19/02/04

### March

1<sup>st</sup> Male Brimstone - Carver Hill Rd - 16/03/04

1<sup>st</sup> Sm. Tortoiseshell - Amersham Hill Drive,  
High Wycombe - 16/30/04

1<sup>st</sup> Frog spawn (High Wycombe)

- Amersham Hill Drive - 05/03/04

- Carver Hill Road - 15/03/04

(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

Berks, Bucks & Oxon Wildlife Trust

(South Bucks Region, Vol. Reserves Co-ordinator)

Booker Common & Woods Preservation Society

British Naturalists' Assoc. S. Bucks Branch

British Trust for Conservation Volunteers

British Trust for Ornithology (Regional Rep.)

Bucks Invertebrate Group

Bucks Badger Group

Bucks Bird Club

Bucks Community Association

Butterfly Conservation

Chiltern Society

Chilterns Chalk Streams Officer

Chilterns Conference AONB

Chiltern Woodlands Project

Council for the Protection of Rural England (m' Chilterns branch.)

Downley Common Preservation Society

English Nature Conservation Officer Bucks.

Frieth Natural History Society

Grange Action Group

High Wycombe Society

Lane End Conservation Group

Marlow Society

National Trust

Pann Mill Group

Ramblers Association

Red Kites in the Chilterns Officer

Princes Risborough Countryside Group

Saunderton Wildlife Sanctuary

St. Tiggywinkles

Swan Lifeline

South Bucks Organic Group

The Environment Centre on Holywell Mead (Manager)

Wycombe District Council Ranger Service

Wycombe Youth Action

Nigel Mossman

01494 462059

(Oxon Office)

01865 775476

Maurice Young

01628 472000

Ron Walker

01494 444824

Ann Jones

01494 675196

David Wilding

01296 330033

Mick A'Court

01296 623610

Mike Palmer

01296 624519

Mike Collard

01494 866908

Roger Warren

01491 638544

Francis Gomme

01844 274865

Jaci Beaven

01494 444158

Angus Idle

01494 563673

Sarah Wallbank

01844 271308

Steve Rodrick

01844 271300

John Morris

01844 271315

Sandy MacFarlane

01844 343004

Bill Thompson

01494 520648

Jenny Young

01635 268881

Alan Gudge

01494 881464

Dave Wainman

01494 716726

Frances Presland

01494 523263

Barbel Cheesewright

01494 882938

Michael Hyde

01628 485474

(Office)

01494 755573

Robert Turner

01494 472981

J.L. Esslemont

01494 881597

Cathy Rose

01844 271306

Francis Gomme

01844 274865

Margaret Baker

01844 342188

Les Stocker

01844 292292

Wendy Hermon

01753 859397

Howard Raimbach

01494 531214

Jane Campbell

01494 511585

Julie Hopton

01494 421825

Lynda Cockerell

01494 447250



If you have any queries about **BATS** contact Maurice Young 01628 472000

or the **WDC Rangers** : 01494 421824

