

**WYCOMBE  
 and  
 SOUTH BUCKS**

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**SEPTEMBER  
 2014**

**Issue 75**

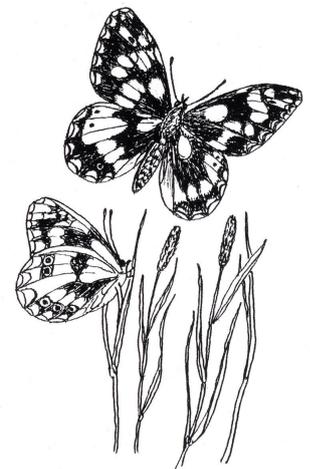
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Above: Kidney Vetch (*Anathyllis vulneraria*) helped locate Small Blues (see page 64) and was found on the Rye (see page 69).

Below: Marbled Whites. Many were seen on our evening walk (see page 67).



**Wycombe Wildlife News** is published 3 times a year to promote the Group and wildlife issues, and inform members and the public of its activities.

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 NEXT ISSUE**

**Monday 1<sup>st</sup> December  
 2014**

Views expressed in this 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.

## Chairman's Chat



**Wycombe Wildlife Group** is a registered charity with the following objects:

To conserve the environment, mainly using volunteers, for the benefit of the public.

To educate the public in the principles and practice of conservation.

Within **Wycombe District** the Group:

Surveys wildlife habitats and their associated flora and fauna, giving those taking part plenty of opportunities to increase their knowledge and identification skills.

Helps manage local wildlife sites, undertaking practical conservation work on local nature reserves.

Provides advice to schools, other bodies and individuals on all aspects of wildlife.

Stimulates public interest in wildlife and its conservation.

Organises walks, talks and other activities covering a wide range of wildlife topics.

Provides advice on and encourages wildlife gardening.

Co-operates with other groups with similar aims.

The time when I can sit down and enjoy reading someone else's "Chairman's Chat" has again been delayed. As no nominations were received for election as additional trustees again this year, and none of the existing trustees have expressed any desire to take over the role of Chairman, it looks as if I will have to continue to read my own words for a while yet.

As someone who has been a member of the Group since its formation 25 years ago, I witnessed its remarkable development in the early years, and its successes when it reached its peak, with a team of project officers working closely with WDC's Ranger Service and BTCV, sharing a joint office known as the Countryside Centre. When the funding necessary to maintain an office and a project team was discontinued, we were able to continue many of our activities using the Environment Centre on Holywell Mead as our meeting place, until that too was forced to close. We no longer rely on external funding, but we are continuing to meet our charitable aims, albeit in a more modest way.

I remain confident that WWG still has an important role to play in the foreseeable future, but feel we are at a crossroads and need to consider which direction we take. As you will see on page 3, the trustees have agreed to continue the current priorities of supporting Revive the Wye and recording the wildlife to be found within the local area, both of which make a valuable contribution towards meeting our charitable aims. Our main priority, however, must be to consider WWG's future and follow up any ideas that come forward, to keep it active and able to attract new members to provide the support we need to maintain an interesting programme of events, and help undertake tasks which support our charitable aims.

As well as considering new ideas, and trying to attract some younger members, it is important that we continue to keep the interest of all the loyal long-standing members who have supported us for many years. We appreciate that many of these are unable, for one reason or another, to get to our meetings, go on our walks, and support us in other ways, as they have done in the past. Some of these members are content to continue to support us through their membership subscriptions, relying on our newsletter to keep them informed of what we are doing. We continue to be grateful to such members for their continuing support, and would very much like to hear from them if they have any ideas or comments related to the future of the Group.

Your elected trustees have some challenging times ahead, but are committed to keeping WWG alive and well. Wish us luck and provide whatever help you can.

Roger Wilding

## New members

We welcome the following new members to Wycombe Wildlife Group:

Inge Beck from Cookham Dean and Felicity Palmer from Holmer Green

## The AGM and follow-up decisions

This year's AGM was held on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> May. We again managed to maintain our reputation for keeping the meeting brief. Completing the business meeting in ten minutes, as we did this year, is probably the best record we are ever likely to achieve.

Under the Group's constitution, members are responsible for electing the trustees for the coming year. It is then the responsibility of those elected, to arrange an Executive Committee meeting as soon as possible after the AGM to decide who will undertake the officer and other support roles for the coming year.

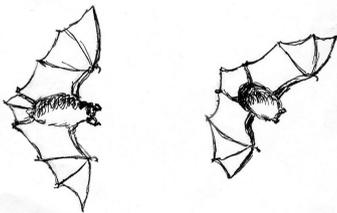
It was disappointing that no new trustee nominations had been received and, in the circumstances, only the existing four elected trustees and the one co-opted trustee, who had agreed to stand for election, were appointed for the coming year. The importance of introducing new blood to the Executive Committee was stressed, and this will remain an important goal in the interests of the Group's longer-term future.

At the Executive Committee meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> June, none of the trustees expressed any wish to take on tasks currently undertaken by others, so the officer and other roles remain virtually unchanged. Karen Roberts undertook to perform the full range of the

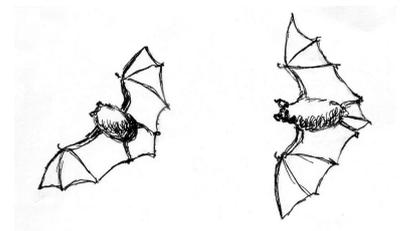
Membership Secretary duties, instead of sharing it with Paul Bowyer, who would concentrate on the Group's programme of outdoor events.

The Trustees also agreed that the Group's priorities for the coming year would remain unchanged, whilst accepting that planning the longer-term future of the Group should be given the highest priority, with recruitment, better communication and continuity requirements being identified as areas to tackle at an early stage. James Donald will continue to take responsibility for this task, in his capacity as the Group's Vice Chairman.

Supporting Revive the Wye would continue to be a WWG priority, as would the task of creating records of local sites of wildlife interest, and publishing the data on our Group's website. Realistic targets for the latter task would be set each year, taking account of the amount of associated site survey work that needs to be undertaken at different times of the year. Where possible, the sites chosen will tie in with the Spotlight articles in the Group's newsletter, and walks that have been, or are, planned to be included in the WWG events programme.



### A talk with a difference



The subject of the talk at the April members meeting, held at St Thomas's Church Hall in Holtspur, was bats. During the first half of the evening, we had a comprehensive talk by Peter Grimsey of the North Bucks Bat Group, which included a great deal of information about this group of mammals. The talk also incorporated some video footage of bats inside a loft being used as a roost.

We learnt that there are around 100 species of bat worldwide, and that there are 18 known species in Britain, some common and some very rare. All of our bats are protected by both UK and EU law, as are their roosts, even when the bats are not present. It is a criminal offence to disturb or destroy a bat or their roosts, capture, keep or injure a bat. Even possessing bat parts without a licence is an offence. Fines of £600 per bat, or a 6 month prison sentence, can be

imposed for bat related offences. The speaker pointed out that the laws relating to bats are easy to comply with, whereas non-compliance can be very expensive.

Bats do not cause any damage, and there is no good reason to relocate them if they decide to take up residence in your loft. Having bats does not prevent essential maintenance being carried out. Not all bats roost or raise their young in buildings, however: many are found in caves, tunnels and in cavities in old and decaying trees, where they can get into a hole about the size of a thumb. Some bats only inhabit trees, and they can be very particular as to the size and shape of the hole or cavity they use - some only choosing horizontal cracks, and others only choosing vertical ones. We were told that the loss of suitable trees is one of the major threats to bat populations.

Bats use echo location to determine the direction of flight of their prey. It also prevents them from colliding with anything in their way. Most people have difficulty hearing the high frequency echo location sounds emitted by bats, but the use of a bat detector enables the frequency to be reduced to a lower level, so that the sound patterns can easily be heard and, with experience, the bat species determined. Bats help control pests, consuming huge numbers of flying insects: even the tiny Pipistrelle can eat up to 3,000 insects a night. All of the British bat species only eat insects. Although no British bats are pollinators, the loss of millions of bats to white-nose syndrome in the U.S. has caused a huge loss to farmers.

After the break, the remainder of the evening took the form of an informal discussion, with Peter, his wife Margaret, and Julie Hopton, who are all licensed bat handlers and members of the North Bucks Bat Group, showing us live bats they had brought along with them. Julie showed a selection of stuffed birds and mammals that she had borrowed from BBOWT for the talk, pointing out how valuable such exhibits are for educating children and enabling them to get up close and touch them.

We are grateful to Julie Hopton for organising the team effort involved in this event, which was quite different from our normal, more formal meetings.

## A walk to look for the Small Blue

On Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> June, the WWG events programme advertised a butterfly walk at Bradenham, the target species being the Small Blue, which Paul Bowyer, who was leading the walk, was confident we would find at that location at that time of year.

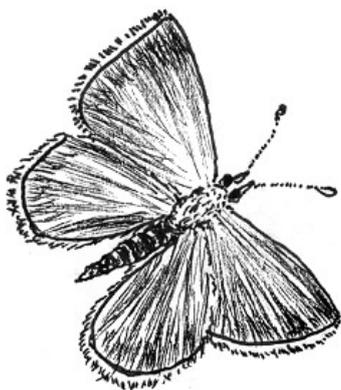
Seeing the rain falling whilst listening to the weather forecast on the radio, and then checking the local forecast on the Internet, I came to the conclusion that no sane person would go on a butterfly walk with a forecast like that. Then I thought of the walk leader, who would feel duty-bound, whatever the weather, to turn up at the meeting place for the walk, in case anyone decided to attend the walk despite the adverse weather. One other member felt, like me, that he ought to support the event, although he too was rather pessimistic about seeing any butterflies. Paul remained confident, however, and we started

off, appropriately dressed to cope with water coming from the skies and with the water lying on the ground around us.

Did we see the Small Blue butterfly? Yes we did, and there were quite a few. Paul explained that they rarely stray far from patches of Kidney Vetch (*Anthyllis vulneraria*), the larval food plant of this species, and he knew that the butterflies would be there. We soon located a large group of the food plants, and sure enough the Small Blues were on and around them. The poor weather probably made it easier to see the butterflies, as they were not very lively, and remained stationary long enough for us to have a really close look at them.

Although the grass was rather wet, the rain was certainly not as bad as forecast, and we continued the walk to see what else of interest we could see, and we were not disappointed.

The Small Blue is indeed a very small butterfly with a wingspan of only 25mm. (The illustrations below are approximately x2). The upper side of this species is dark and the underside is a pale greyish blue with white-ringed black dots. The antennae are black, ringed and tipped with white.



## Chilterns Commons and their wildlife

After our AGM on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> May, we enjoyed an excellent talk given by Rachel Sanderson, the Chilterns Commons Project Officer for the Chilterns Conservation Board. The title of her talk was “Chilterns Commons and their wildlife” although with around 200 commons covered by the project, Rachel’s talk concentrated on those in our part of the Chilterns. We were informed that the Chilterns Commons Project is a 4-year Heritage Lottery funded project, which was launched in September 2011, and will run until July 2015. Its purpose is to reconnect people with their commons, and promote their use for outdoor enjoyment. The project also aims to encourage people to study and care for commons.

The talk commenced with a brief history of commons, which have their origin in medieval times. Arable land was always close to the manor, and land used for pasture lay beyond that. The non-agricultural land furthest away from the manor was known as the “wastes” of the manor, and was made available for use by the tenants. Sometimes the land was divided into strips, and tenants were allocated different strips each year, because some strips of land were more productive than others.

Over time, these areas of waste land became known as commons, and local residents enjoyed a range of common rights, including pasturage (grazing of goats, sheep, cattle, horses, ponies, geese and ducks), pannage (grazing of pigs on acorns and beechmast in the autumn), estovers (cutting timber for minor building improvements, making farm implements, collecting deadwood for

fuel, and collecting heather and bracken for bedding), turbary (cutting of peat for fuel), piscary (catching fish for food), and the right to take stones and minerals from the soil. (This latter right provided materials for repairing buildings and walls, and in some cases led to the creation of small-scale local industries, such as making bricks, tiles and metal objects.) Cadmore End Common has remains of an old brick making industry, with clay pits, some of which are now ponds, and Nettlebed Common has a kiln, which was used by the local tile making industry. Common rights still exist, but the number of persons able to enjoy such rights is now very small. Only common rights registered in accordance with the Commons Registration Act of 1965 remain in force, and any common rights not registered were effectively extinguished by that Act. Where land is registered as a common, anyone has a right to walk there, but permission is needed to ride a horse.

All common land is owned by someone: it does not belong to the public, as many people think. In some cases, it remains a part of a local estate, and in other cases, ownership has passed to a local authority. As well as local authorities and parish councils, various organisations are now responsible for managing commons, including the National Trust and the Wildlife Trusts. Locally, the City of London manages Burnham Beeches, West Wycombe Estate manages Naphill, Downley and Wheeler End Commons and the Chiltern Society manages Marlow Common.



Scarlet Elfcap (*Sarcoscypha austriaca*) is a fungus with a bright scarlet inner surface and a hairy whitish outer surface. It appears from early winter to early spring and grows on dead wood. It can be found on Moorend Common.

Commons can have considerable natural history interest, and provide important wildlife refuges for species that cannot survive elsewhere in our intensively-farmed countryside. This is because many commons have not been disturbed for long periods, and often have not been ploughed. Some commons were used to support the war effort, however, producing food and being used for training: such commons had to be restored after the war. Commons do require management to maintain their biodiversity, and the biggest threat to their future is neglect. The natural history value of some of our commons is recognised by their designation. For example, Naphill and Moorend Commons are Sites of Special Scientific Interest, West Wycombe Hill, part of Booker Common and Marlow Common are Local Wildlife Sites.

We were informed that 60 species of spider have been found on Moorend Common, which is also a good site for plants, including Heath Spotted-orchid (*Dactylorhiza maculata*) and Southern Marsh-orchid (*Dactylorhiza praetermissa*). The Scarlet Elfcap (*Sarcoscypha*

*austriaca*) fungus can also be found here. Several rare fungi have been found during Bucks Fungus Group visits to other local commons, including the Coral Tooth (*Hericium coralloides*) which regularly appears on a tree on Naphill Common. Ponds on Naphill Common support all the native newt species, grass snakes and the very rare plant Starfruit (*Damasonium alisma*).

As well as wildlife interest, some commons contain historical sites, including a medieval castle on Totternhoe Knolls, and tumuli on Dunstable Downs and Chinnor Hill.

At the end of her talk, Rachel mentioned that she had also been asked to give a talk to the High Wycombe Society on the Chilterns Commons at Trinity United Reformed Church in July. She added that it would concentrate more on the historical aspects of commons and less on the wildlife. The fact that a number of people attended both talks was an indication of how well Rachel's talk to WWG had been received.



Above: Southern Marsh-orchid (*Dactylorhiza praetermissa*) can be found on Moorend Common.



Left: Starfruit (*Damasonium alisma*) is a rare plant of muddy acid ponds. Ponds on Naphill Common support this species, but on-going appropriate management is needed to enable this annual plant to germinate from seed, and flower. The seeds can remain dormant for many years, so it can re-appear even when thought to be extinct.

## Munday Dean Open Day

Keeping up the tradition of an annual visit to BBOWT's Munday Dean Nature Reserve to view Green-winged Orchids, permission was obtained to access this small reserve on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> May, through adjoining farmland off Mundaydean Lane, and for cars to be parked in a roadside field. Although it is possible to reach the reserve from the Marlow to Frieth road, there is no provision for car parking.

As the flowering time of the Green-winged Orchid (*Orchis morio*) is rather unpredictable, choosing the date for the open day has always been difficult, but Derek Bourne usually manages to get it more or less

right. This year his choice of date was spot on, and there were plenty of plants in full bloom, with the usual range of colours varying from purple to pink, and white.

Although details of this event had been submitted to BBOWT for inclusion in their events diary, it had not been published in their new format events programme, which only includes a selection of the events shown on their website. Sufficient numbers attended to make the open day worthwhile, however, and for it to continue as an annual pilgrimage to admire this interesting and attractive orchid which is uncommon in our area.

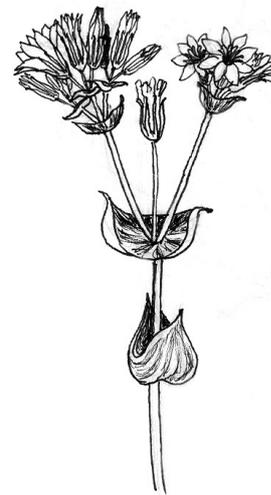
## An evening wildflower walk



Left: Sainfoin  
(*Onobrychis viciifolia*)

Middle: Pyramidal  
Orchid (*Anagallis  
pyramidalis*)

Far right: Yellow-wort  
(*Blackstonia perfoliata*)



Back in July 2006, we arranged an evening wildflower walk around the Kingswood Cemetery and surrounding land, and part of the Gomm's Wood Local Nature Reserve. As that event had been well supported, we decided to repeat the walk on 17<sup>th</sup> July this year. Again the walk was well attended and a great success.

The weather was absolutely perfect, and the evening sunshine brought out the butterflies to add to the interest of this wildflower walk. Two Silver-washed Fritillaries greeted us as we walked down the butterfly ride in Gomm's Wood, where we also saw a Large Skipper, Small Skipper, Essex Skipper, Gatekeeper and Ringlet as well as large numbers of Marbled Whites.

There were certainly plenty of wildflowers to see on the walk. The highlights were the rather scarce Sainfoin (*Onobrychis viciifolia*) seen along the butterfly ride, where they have been quite plentiful this year, and Basil-thyme (*Clinopodium acinos*), which we found on the short grassland behind Ash Hill School. The numerous other plant species seen on

the walk included Ribbed Melilot (*Melilotus officinalis*), Meadow Vetchling (*Lathyrus pratensis*), Ladies Bedstraw (*Galium verum*), Kidney Vetch (*Anthyllis vulneraria*), Agrimony (*Agrimonia eupatoria*), Hairy St. John's-wort (*Hypericum hirsutum*), Yellow-wort (*Blackstonia perfoliata*), Yellow-rattle (*Rhinanthus minor*), Common Rock-rose (*Helianthemum nummularium*), Hop-trefoil (*Trifolium campestre*), Tufted Vetch (*Vicia cracca*), Wild Thyme (*Thymus polytrichus* ssp. *britannicus*), Meadow-Crane's-bill (*Geranium pratense*), Common Milkwort (*Polygala vulgaris*), Red Bartsia (*Odontites vernus*), Common Restharrow (*Ononis repens*), and Wild Marjoram (*Origanum vulgare*).

Although we were too late to see the huge numbers of orchids that were around earlier in the year, there were plenty of faded blooms and seed heads still to indicate what the display would have been like when they were at their best. The only orchid found that was still in flower was a Pyramidal Orchid (*Anagallis pyramidalis*). There is no doubt that Gomm's Wood LNR is one of the best sites around Wycombe for orchids and other wildflowers.



Silver-washed Fritillary, and its dark form *valezina*, were both seen on the walk.

## Wildflowers of Booker Common and Woods



Left: Common  
Hemp-nettle  
(*Galeopsis tetrahit*)

Near right: Corncockle  
(*Agrostemma githago*)

Far right: Corn Marigold  
(*Chrysanthemum segetum*)

The latter two plants have been introduced, with others, on Booker Common, by sowing a wildflower seed mix with landowner permission.



As a follow up to a wildflower walk around Booker Common and Woods in June 2011, I was asked by the Booker Common and Woods Protection Society to lead another wildflower walk there this July. The weather was very good, and the walk was well supported, both by members of the Society, and by a number of Wycombe Wildlife Group members. Because of the time of year, most of the two-hour walk was spent looking at the large number of plants growing around the perimeter of the open common.

The diversity of plants seen on this walk was outstanding, helped by recent soil disturbance around the perimeter of the common, where mounds have been created to prevent vehicles driving onto the grassland. Such soil disturbance enables the seed of arable plant species such as Fat-hen (*Chenopodium album*), Charlock (*Sinapis arvensis*) and Pale Persicaria (*Persicaria lapathifolia*) to germinate from seeds that may have remained dormant in the seed bank for a long time. I was pleased to find that the uncommon Common Hemp-nettle (*Galeopsis tetrahit*) is still thriving around the woodland edge, and it was interesting to find a Common Broomrape (*Orobancha minor*).

An area of great interest on the walk was a small patch on the common which had been dug over with landowner permission, and sown with an arable seed mix, providing an opportunity to see wildflower species, which are rarely seen in the countryside except where introduced. We saw Cornflower (*Centaurea cyanus*), Corn Marigold (*Chrysanthemum segetum*), Corncockle (*Agrostemma githago*), Scented Mayweed (*Matricaria recutita*) and a plant which I thought

could only be Small-flowered Catchfly (*Silene gallica*).

We did have a walk through part of the wood, and found some plants still in flower, as well as some that were easily recognisable, even though they were not in flower. We paid a short visit to the area, below The Squirrel PH, known locally as the Triangle, which had been planted up as a wildflower area some years ago, and where some later additional planting had taken place. Whilst some of both previous planted species were still present, including Meadow Crane's-bill (*Geranium pratense*), Chicory (*Chicorium intybus*), Red Campion (*Silene dioica*), Spear Mint (*Mentha spicata*) and Nettle-leaved Bellflower (*Campanula trachelium*), the area is always going to require quite a lot of management to keep on top of the more vigorous competing plants. We did a slight detour to look at the section of Booker Recreation Ground adjacent to the wood, where the grass has been kept long, and wildflowers are thriving. We looked at the large number of Yellow-rattle plants, which are parasitic on grasses, helping to prevent them from dominating the wildflowers.

I recorded around 130 plant species seen on this walk, which makes Booker Common and Woods a very interesting place to look for wildflowers, especially when taking into account the number of plants that would not have been seen at this time of the year and those growing in places not covered by the walk.

I hope those who came on the walk enjoyed it as much as I enjoyed leading it.

Roger Wilding

## Old wood put to good use

I recently paid a visit to the new Chilterns Timber Recycling Centre along Lincoln Road, and was most impressed, both by the ethical way the business is run (it seeks to employ disadvantaged people as volunteers), and by the quality of the work produced. As well as furniture, they make planters, bug hotels and bird boxes. Why not pay them a visit on a Saturday morning and see what an interesting place it is.

Frances Wilding

## The Rye and Holywell Mead

Our congratulations go to Wycombe District Council who have received the Green Flag award for the Rye and Holywell Mead for 2014/15, as well as for Higginson Park in Marlow. Although this is the third time the award has been received for the Rye and Holywell Mead, a lot of effort has to be devoted to maintaining the necessary standards that will impress the judges each year, in order to retain it.

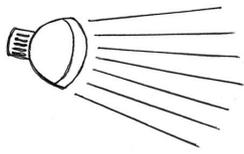
The Rye and Holywell Mead has a rolling 10-year Management Plan which is updated each year. A Friends Group for the Rye and Holywell Mead, comprising representatives of WDC, Quadron (the contractor responsible for the routine management), the Environment Agency, Revive the Wye, High Wycombe Society, Wycombe Wildlife Group, Wycombe Rye Lido, Wye District Angling and a few

other Rye users, meets twice a year to raise any concerns, put forward ideas, and discuss future plans.

A WWG-led Revive the Wye work party spent the morning of Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> July removing vast quantities of docks which had come up in profusion following the soil disturbance that had taken place when the river banks had been improved both for safety reasons and to make them look more natural. The clearance, which was selective to preserve the natural appearance of the river, uncovered a couple of Wild Clary (*Salvia verbenaca*) plants and a Kidney Vetch (*Anthyllis vulneraria*), making us wonder how they came to be present in such a location.



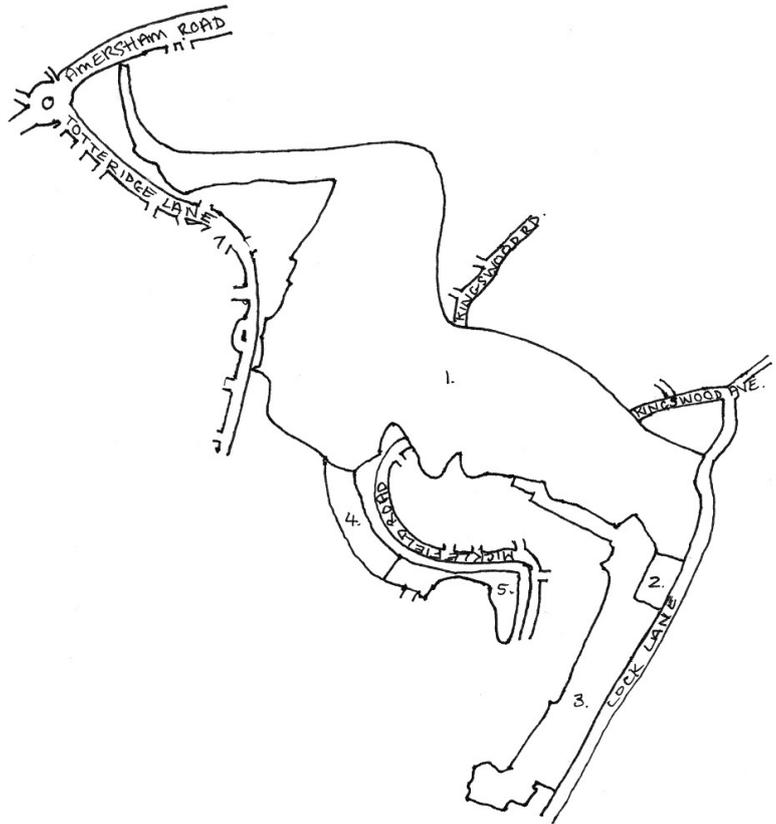
Wild Clary (*Salvia verbenaca*) found on The Rye during a task to remove some of the docks alongside the river.



## Spotlight on:- King's Wood

The map on the right shows the locations of the sites of wildlife interest at the north end of the Micklefield Valley.

1. King's Wood
2. Kingswood Cemetery
3. Gomm's Wood LNR/ LWS
4. Hangingcroft Wood
5. Highfield Wood  
(The latter two woods form a combined LWS)



**K**ing's Wood covers 186 acres, and is one of the largest woods around High Wycombe. The northern part of the wood can be entered via a footpath off the A404 Amersham Road, or from the open grassland near its junction with Totteridge Lane. The central part of the wood is accessible from Totteridge Road by The Dolphin PH on the west and from Kingswood Road on the east: there are car parking areas at both locations. The southern part of the wood can be entered from Cock Lane where there are parking facilities, from Kingswood Avenue, or from the north end of Micklefield, where its boundaries with the adjoining Hangingcroft Wood, Gomm's Wood LNR, and the Kingswood Cemetery (which includes land purchased for future cemetery use) can be confusing. Both King's Wood and Kingswood Cemetery are owned by Chepping Wycombe Parish Council, whereas Highfield and Hangingcroft LWS and the Gomm's Wood LWS and LNR are owned by WDC.

As is usual in woods dominated by Beech, one can get the impression that there is a lack of flowering plants in King's Wood, but there are areas where glades and ponds have been created, and where there are woodland edge habitats with a greater variety of vegetation.

King's Wood is worth a visit in spring to look for woodland flowers, in summer to concentrate on the more open areas, and in autumn when there are usually plenty of fungi to find. Noting down plants

seen on walks in the wood at different times of the year since 2007, I have ended up with a list of around 150 common species plus a separate list of over 50 species of fungi.

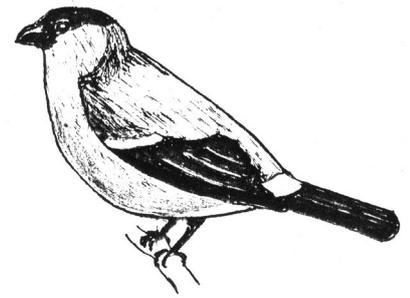
The wood does have at least three unusual plants. It is a recorded site for the rare Bastard Service Tree (*Sorbus x thuringiaca*), which is still there, and it is probably the only local site for Alexanders (*Smyrniolus olusatrum*), an umbellifer normally associated with coastal areas. The fact that this species is growing on the edge of the wood near a housing area, suggests that perhaps someone introduced it into their garden from where it escaped. However it arrived, it is likely to become a permanent resident, in view of the ease with which it germinates from the large quantities of seed it produces. Hidden away in another part of the wood, unlikely to be visited by many people, is a Monkshood (*Aconitum napellus*), a plant so poisonous that it is unwise to even touch it, unless wearing gloves.

If you are not familiar with this wood, and decide to visit, allow plenty of time and take a compass. There are lots of paths, and some fairly steep uphill gradients, including one known as Breakheart Hill. In wet weather the path following the north east boundary can get muddy, but the reward is seeing the blue flowers of Brooklime (*Veronica beccabunga*) growing on the right, when walking northwards. On the opposite side of the path, you may spot the Yellow Pimpernel when it is in flower.

# Wildlife observations - April to June 2014

## April 2014

4 <sup>th</sup>	Lapwings & Skylarks (also on 14 <sup>th</sup> )	Marlow
9 <sup>th</sup>	Orange Tips	Shaftesbury St garden
13 <sup>th</sup>	Female Orange Tip	Downley
16 <sup>th</sup>	Holly Blue & Small White	Shaftesbury St garden
17 <sup>th</sup>	Bullfinch	Downley garden
25 <sup>th</sup>	Hedgehog	Shaftesbury St garden
30 <sup>th</sup>	14-spot Ladybird	Downley



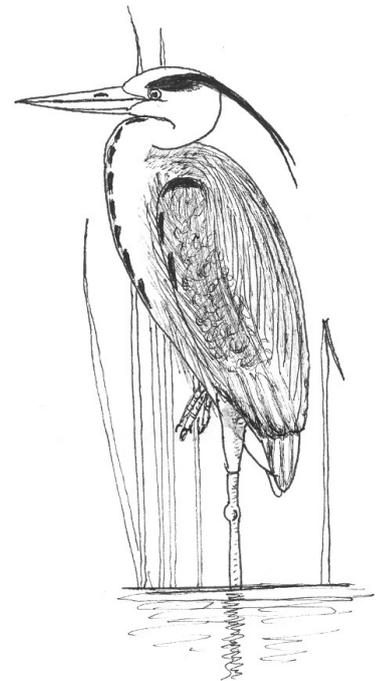
## May 2014

5 <sup>th</sup>	Hedgehog	Shaftesbury St garden
5 <sup>th</sup>	4 Swifts nest prospecting	Deeds Grove garden
6 <sup>th</sup>	Cuckoo/ House Martins/Swallows & baby Great Crested Grebes	Marlow
12 <sup>th</sup>	Hedgehog	Flackwell Heath garden
14 <sup>th</sup>	Brown Rat	Downley garden
14 <sup>th</sup>	C.Tern/Whitethroats/ Skylark singing	Marlow
15 <sup>th</sup>	Ring-necked Parakeet on feeder	Deeds Grove garden
15 <sup>th</sup>	2 Swallows	Hughenden
16 <sup>th</sup>	2 Brown rats	Downley garden
17 <sup>th</sup>	3 Brown Rats & Orange Tip	Downley garden
17 <sup>th</sup>	Hedgehog (also on 20 <sup>th</sup> )	Shaftesbury St garden
20 <sup>th</sup>	Hedgehog	Shaftesbury St garden
20 <sup>th</sup>	5 Brown Rats	Downley garden
23 <sup>rd</sup>	Hedgehog	Shaftesbury St garden
26 <sup>th</sup>	Red Kite attacking Coot chicks	Park Farm
28 <sup>th</sup>	Heron eating Moorhen chicks	The Rye by Pann Mill
29 <sup>th</sup>	Hummingbird Hawkmoth	Flackwell Heath garden

Top: Bullfinch

Middle: Heron

Bottom: Hedgehog



Hedgehogs also seen on some evenings in Downley garden

## June 2014

2 <sup>nd</sup>	First young Greenfinches	Deeds Grove garden
5 <sup>th</sup>	Bat	Shaftesbury St garden
7 <sup>th</sup>	Bats and hedgehog	Shaftesbury St garden
8 <sup>th</sup>	Bats and hedgehog	Shaftesbury St garden
14 <sup>th</sup>	Common Frog	Flackwell Heath garden
18 <sup>th</sup>	Last Cuckoo heard calling	Marlow
18 <sup>th</sup>	Hedgehog (also on 21 <sup>st</sup> )	Shaftesbury St garden
23 <sup>rd</sup>	Harlequin Ladybird laying eggs on cardoon	Shaftesbury St garden
26 <sup>th</sup>	Hedgehog	Shaftesbury St garden
28 <sup>th</sup>	Ringlet	Deeds Grove garden
29 <sup>th</sup>	2 Hedgehogs	Shaftesbury St garden
29 <sup>th</sup>	Small Tortoiseshells & Ringlets	Between Downley and Hughenden Park
30 <sup>th</sup>	Harlequin eggs hatching	Shaftesbury St garden
30 <sup>th</sup>	Male, female & juvenile Great Spotted Woodpecker	Downley garden

1 Great Tit brood, 1 House Sparrow brood, 2 Blue Tit broods, 3 Blackbird broods, 3 Robin broods and 4 Starling broods have boosted the bird population this year in one Deeds Grove garden.



## Volunteering opportunities

If you would like to help WWG with its practical conservation work, there are plenty of opportunities to get involved. You could help to maintain the floral interest of the wildflower garden, created and managed by our Group at Hughenden Manor, and seen by thousands of visitors each year. There are opportunities to carry out management tasks on a number of local sites of wildlife interest, and there are tasks undertaken by Revive the Wye (RTW), a project supported by WWG. I am responsible for co-ordinating the RTW volunteer tasks, and have a growing contact list of people who have expressed an interest in getting involved in those tasks.

If you would like to be kept informed of WWG and/or RTW volunteering opportunities as they arise, please let me know.

Roger Wilding

### Joining Wycombe Wildlife Group

To join our Group, please complete a copy of the form on the right and send to  
The Membership Secretary, 15 Cherrywood Gardens, Flackwell Heath, HP10 9AX.  
Subscription £6 per annum, if paid by Standing Order, or £7 per annum, if paid by cash or cheque.



### Contacting Wycombe Wildlife Group

Postal correspondence  
The Chairman,  
Wycombe Wildlife Group,  
c/o 129 Deeds Grove,  
High Wycombe, Bucks, HP12 3PA

Telephone  
01494 438374

e-mail  
w.w.group@btoopenworld.com

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

### Please enrol me as a member of Wycombe Wildlife Group

Name:.....

Address:.....

.....

Telephone:..... Email:.....

#### EITHER Payment by bank standing order

To .....Bank

.....Branch

Address:.....

.....

NEW standing order instruction:

**Account to be debited** (your account details)

Sort code: ..... Account number: .....

Account name: .....

#### Beneficiary bank and payee details

HSBC 1 Corn Market High Wycombe HP11 2AY

Sort Code: 402417 ..... Account number: 92116685

Account name: ..... Wycombe Wildlife Group

Ref: .....

#### Payment details

Amount of payment: £6.00 Six pounds

Frequency: Annually

From: .....

Number of payments: ..... Until further notice

Signature ..... Date .....

#### OR Payment by cheque or cash

I enclose cheque/cash for £7.00, payable to Wycombe Wildlife Group.