

**WYCOMBE  
 and  
 SOUTH BUCKS**

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**MAY  
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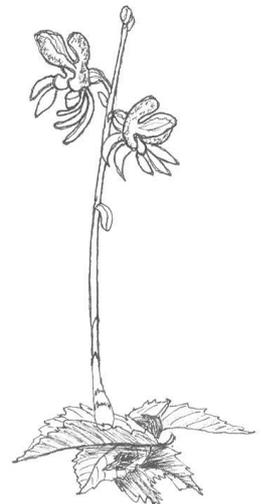
**Issue 77**

**Contents include:-**

|   |    |
|---|----|
| Tribute to Pat Morris   | 86 |
| Holtspur Bottom Reserve talk  | 87 |
| Bringing dead wood to life - the beetles<br>and other wildlife of ancient and<br>decaying trees | 88 |
| A natural history journey around Widbrook<br>Common and further afield                          | 89 |
| Spade Oak bird walk   | 90 |
| Lichens, liverworts, mosses & ferns   | 91 |
| Bisham Barn Owl Group (BBOG)  | 93 |
| Spotlight on Round Wood   | 94 |
| Carver Hill update  | 95 |
| Wildlife observations Dec 14 - Mar 15   | 95 |
| AGM and Supporters Evening  | 96 |
| Contact and membership information  | 96 |



See page 93 to find out  
 what a local group is  
 doing to help conserve  
 Barn Owls in our area.



The Ghost Orchid (*Epipogium  
 aphyllum*), which hasn't been seen in our  
 area for a long time, was mentioned in  
 the illustrated talk by Dr John Lloyd  
 Parry. (See page 90)

**COPY DATE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE**

**Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> August 2015**

**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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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.

Again there has been no shortage of material for this issue of the newsletter. We have had some interesting talks to report on, and the February bird walk around Spade Oak produced a list of 48 species. We have also received an article about a new local group that has been set up in our area, specialising in making and putting up nestboxes for Owls and Kestrels. We are pleased to be able to help publicise this new group, and hope to keep in touch with their progress. We are hoping to provide closer links with other local organisations with similar interests to our own, and one or two joint events and activities are already being planned.

Whilst we are keen for our group to develop new ways of meeting our charitable aims, and provide good value to our members, we still struggle with the problem of needing more people to become involved in undertaking all the actions needed to keep the group active, and one which more people want to become part of.

Last year, our group celebrated its Silver Anniversary and we looked back at some of the highlights of those years. Pat Morris, one of our founder members, stood out as the person who had contributed most to our Group over its lifetime, and we were all so sad to hear that she had passed away on Christmas Eve. We remembered all the time and energy she had devoted to our Group as Newsletter Editor for 22 years, Chairman for 9 years, and undertaking roles such as Programme Officer and Publicity Officer. I gave a verbal tribute to Pat at our January meeting, and have included a written tribute in this newsletter.

Roger Wilding

## New members

We welcome the following new members to Wycombe Wildlife Group:

Wendy Wilson from Gerrards Cross, Susan Cunningham from High Wycombe, and Barbara Illingworth from Holmer Green

## Eileen Patricia (Pat) Morris

**23<sup>rd</sup> April 1931 - 24<sup>th</sup> December 2014**

The January newsletter had already been completed, and most copies had been distributed, when we received the sad news that Pat Morris had died on Christmas Eve.

Pat was one of the original members of Wycombe Wildlife Group, when it was formed just over 25 years ago, and right from the start, she became involved in the administration of the Group and offered to produce a newsletter for us. Issue Number 1 of Wycombe Wildlife News appeared in 1990 and Pat continued to edit the newsletter 3 times a year until Issue 68 in 2012.

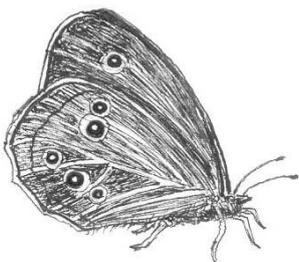
Pat was elected Chairman of the Group in 1991, a position she held for 9 years. During her chairmanship, the Group was at the height of its success, receiving sufficient annual funding to set up an office known as the Countryside Centre which was shared with the local BTCV team (now TCV and no longer based in Wycombe), and the then WDC Rangers (now Chiltern Rangers and no longer part of WDC). The funding also enabled us to recruit graduates as project officers to enable them to gain practical experience in conservation work to pursue careers in that field. Pat took all of the responsibilities related to the administration of the project officer scheme in her stride.

In 2012, we appointed Pat an Honorary Life Member of WWG in recognition of her highly valued personal contribution to the Group for so many years. Although Pat gradually passed her remaining administrative responsibilities to others, ensuring a smooth handover, she remained a valued Trustee of our charity until she and her husband Roy moved away from Wycombe in late 2013 to live nearer to family members.

Those of us who have been involved with Wycombe Wildlife Group for a long time will be aware of the many varied activities that Pat took a lead on, and will never forget her contribution to the success of our Group.

Roger Wilding

## Holtspur Bottom Butterfly Reserve - a talk by Nick Bowles



Left: Ringlet



Right: Marbled White

**H**oltspur Bottom is Butterfly Conservation's only reserve in the Upper Thames region. It is situated in Holtspur along Riding Lane, which is a turning to the southwest off Holtspur Top Lane. The O.S. grid reference for the reserve is SU918906. Nick Bowles has been one of the leading proponents in the establishment of the reserve, and still works hard on its development. The land has been rented from Beaconsfield Town Council since 1998. Formerly the site had been farmed, with most of it having been sown with coarse rye grass for grazing purposes. The area closest to the road had been a rubbish dump and has subsequently been difficult to clear. There was a small area of the reserve, which was prime chalk downland, providing a glimpse of what the rest of the area could resemble.

Nick explained that Holtspur Bottom's aspect is perfectly angled to receive the sun, and this was an important factor in deciding to create the butterfly reserve. Since 1998, regular winter work

parties of Butterfly Conservation volunteers have taken place. One of the biggest problems tackled is ragwort. For the first few years, hand pulling was tried, but this was almost futile, and the infected area was sprayed and then ploughed to push the ragwort seed deep into the soil. A wild flower seed mixture was then sown to provide the butterflies with nectar sources and their larvae with food. However after a few years some ragwort has re-emerged, and the volunteers have pulling sessions annually when it is flower. Other areas of the reserve used to be dominated by dense tall grass. This inhibits the development of wild flowers and keeps the ground too cold for butterflies to prosper. The grass is cut by a contractor, and it is removed from the site. Fences have been erected so that the grass can be grazed by sheep. After many years the grass has been thinned and is home to plenty of grass loving butterflies. These include Meadow Brown, Ringlet, Marbled White, Gatekeeper, Large Skipper, Essex Skipper and Small Skipper.

Butterflies requiring specialist needs have been catered for as well. Areas of the reserve have been developed with sparse vegetation. These “scrapes” have been planted with caterpillar food plants such as Kidney Vetch, Common Rock-rose and Bird’s-foot-trefoil. Some of the earth has been left bare, providing butterflies with hot spots where they can prosper. Amongst these are Common Blue, Small Blue, Brown Argus, Dingy Skipper and, in the last few years, Chalkhill Blue. Bushes and trees have been planted along the fence lines, giving butterfly species such as the Green Hairstreak perching places from which the males may set up mating territories. Elms, resistant to Dutch Elm Disease, have been planted to encourage White-letter Hairstreaks to colonise the site, as Elm is the food plant for its larvae. The Striped Lychnis,

a nationally scarce moth, inhabits the Holtspur Bottom reserve. In order to help its life cycle, the wild flower Dark Mullein has been planted. The moth lays its eggs on the plant, and its larvae feed on the leaves. All sorts of other plants and creatures live on the reserve, including 27 species of butterfly, over 500 species of moth, rare bees and wasps, and various orchids.

More information, Nick assured us, could be found on the Reserve’s web site and Facebook page, including the dates of the volunteer work parties, which he encouraged us to attend.

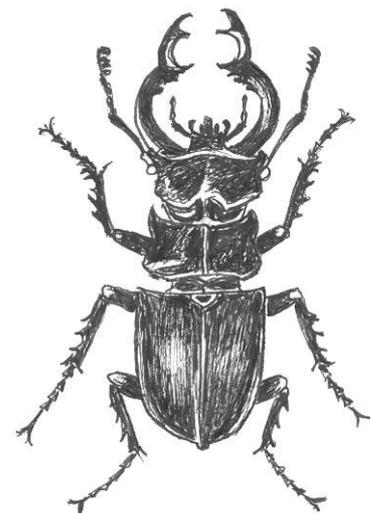
Thanks to Nick for cheering us up on such a cold night.

Paul Bowyer

## Bringing dead wood to life - the beetles and other wildlife of ancient and decaying trees

The talk by Martin Harvey on 19 January conveyed a very strong message about the value of trees when they are past their sell-by date. When we admire the wonderful mature oaks in places such as Windsor Great Park, where they may have stood for 100 years, it is easy to think that they are old and are starting to die. In fact 100 years is early in the life of an oak, and even when this species starts to show signs of age and decay, it can continue to live for many centuries, becoming more and more valuable to wildlife as it gets older. In many places large trees are not allowed to fulfil their full life cycle, for reasons such as public safety and/or tidiness, and in such cases, wildlife is the loser. Some trees have a much shorter life span. A birch tree, for example, only has a lifespan of 80-90 years, but the tree starts to provide habitats for other organisms earlier: an example of this is the Birch Polypore, a bracket fungus. The native tree with the longest lifespan is the Yew.

Stag Beetle



Whilst action by man may have prevented some of our ancient trees reaching their maximum age, man has, over the centuries, helped some trees to live longer than they would have done on their own. Pollarding allowed trees to develop above grazing height, producing on-going supplies of large timber and extending the life of the tree. Whilst the value of pollarding is now once again appreciated, it is quite difficult to pollard a tree that has not been managed in this way for a long time, and there is a high risk of killing the tree.

Martin showed us photographs of some of the beetles whose larvae develop in dead wood, including a black and yellow longhorn beetle, a black and white wasp beetle and the musk beetle, with its very long antennae, a species associated with ancient willows. The larvae of some of the beetles live just under the bark and prey on other species with which they share the habitat. The galleries of beetle larvae are often seen where bark has been removed from a trunk or branch. The larvae of crane flies feed mainly in the hollow wood inside a tree, whilst hoverfly larvae will use rot holes, especially ones near the ground. The rare Noble Chafer is a beetle associated with ancient damson trees, and its main stronghold is in old orchards in Worcestershire. It is a difficult species to find and its presence is normally confirmed by the presence of its droppings. A recent sighting in a Buckinghamshire orchard is the first for 120

years, and others have been found just over the county border with Bedfordshire.

Langley Park is a local important site for beetles, especially the Violet Click Beetle, and in Kew Gardens, a man-made habitat has been created to encourage Stag Beetles. The eggs of this species are laid in soil but the larvae eat dead wood for two years before pupating. The adult emerges within a few weeks but stays underground over winter. These beetles require a habitat where dead wood comes into direct contact with the soil. Whilst ivy can cause a tree to blow over if the extra weight reaches the canopy, ivy is very valuable to wildlife, including specialist beetles, which bore into its old stems.

Our thanks go to Martin for his very interesting and informative talk.

## A natural history journey around Widbrook Common and further afield

At our February meeting we enjoyed a talk by Dr John Lloyd Parry illustrating his daily walk around the Widbrook Common area in Cookham, accompanied by his camera and two border terriers. As well as a number of well known bird species, we saw photos of Egyptian Geese and a White-fronted Goose and a really good view of a Little Owl sitting in a hollow in an old Willow. The downside of living in such a delightful location was illustrated in a photograph showing the deep floodwater in early 2014.

The illustrated walk continued along a section of the Thames Path below Cliveden with views over the river to the infamous Spring Cottage. The walk generated a lot of interest and quite a few members of the audience expressed an interest in accompanying John on one of his walks at a convenient future date.



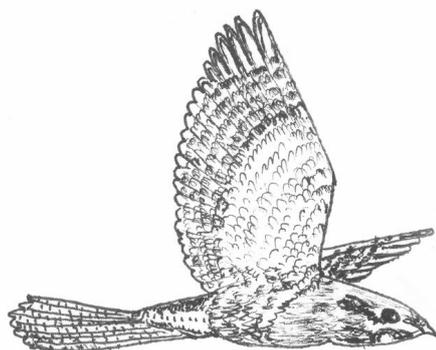
Little Owl

When the talk was arranged, John had said that it would only be long enough for the period up to the refreshment break, but he offered to show some of this wildlife photographs taken further afield, covering different habitats from the south coast to Scotland and from East Anglia to Wales. We started with heathlands and were treated to some wonderful pictures of Stonechat, Yellowhammer, Dartford Warbler, Nightjar, Adders, Smooth Snake, Sand Lizard, Natterjack Toad, Emperor Dragonfly and Migrant Hawker. We visited the Isle of Wight to see the Glanville Fritillary, the south coast to see the Wasp Spider and the Nightingale, before going to the New Forest to see the Bog Orchid and Wild Gladiolus. We even saw the Ghost Orchid taken before it ceased to appear at its location near Marlow and was declared extinct (a status applied to all flowering plants which have not been recorded for 15 years: which is irrelevant in

the case of the Ghost Orchid which can survive underground without flowering for many years). Moving on to East Anglia, we saw a Marsh Harrier, Hobbies, a Brown Hare, Norfolk Hawker and a Swallowtail butterfly.

Our trip around Britain then moved into overdrive, as we motored north as fast as we could so as not to miss any of John's wonderful pictures, being conscious that we were running out of time. We did manage to get a quick view of a Common Seal, Arctic Tern, Corn Bunting, Twites, various species of Marsh-orchid, Corncrake and Feral Goats.

Our thanks go to Dr John Lloyd Parry for agreeing to talk to us. It was a delightful and enjoyable evening, during which we were treated to some excellent photographs of both interesting and, in many cases, rare fauna and flora.



Nightjar

## Spade Oak bird walk

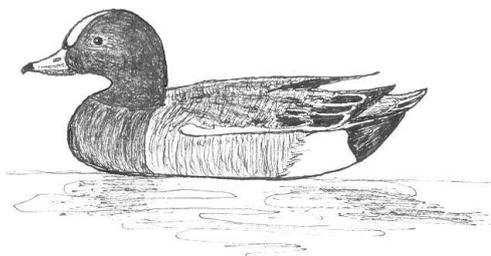
**O**n a bright cool morning, we met at the Coldmoorholme Lane car park in Bourne End to walk around one of the most popular areas for birds in south Bucks. There is plenty to attract resident, seasonal and migrant species to the vicinity. Most important is the flooded Little Marlow gravel pit, and surrounding this is a variety of deciduous trees and other vegetation. Fields used for grazing, the marshy riverbank and the River Thames itself, all attract birds. There is a sewage works to the west of the gravel pit, and businesses rearing game birds within a couple of miles of Little Marlow. The residents of some of the houses close to the gravel pit put up bird feeders, and these are worth watching to see some of the smaller

garden birds. We tried to cover most of these habitats in just two and a half hours. Between us, we saw 48 bird species, but I expect we missed some. Most of the birds we saw were overwintering ducks, gulls and lapwings. We saw a Blackcap and a Chiffchaff, both overwintering warblers, a quite modern phenomenon. There were a number of Egyptian Geese and a pair of Black Swans, two species that have been introduced to this country, and doing very well at Little Marlow. Despite the impressive number of bird species, we only saw one representative from the finch family. Thanks to all who attended for helping me with the bird spotting.

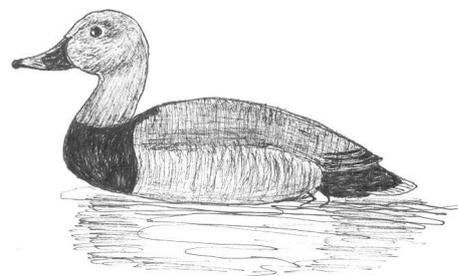
Paul Bowyer

The full list of birds seen on the Spade Oak walk is as follows:-

Great Crested Grebe, Cormorant, Heron, Mute Swan, Black Swan, Egyptian Goose, Greylag Goose, Canada Goose, Wigeon, Gadwall, Teal, Mallard, Shoveller, Pochard, Tufted Duck, Red Kite, Buzzard, Pheasant, Moorhen, Coot, Lapwing, Black-headed Gull, Common Gull, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Herring Gull, Woodpigeon, Collared Dove, Great Spotted Woodpecker, Pied Wagtail, Grey Wagtail, Starling, Magpie, Jackdaw, Rook, Carrion Crow, Wren, Dunnock, Blackcap, Chiffchaff, Robin, Mistle Thrush, Blackbird, Redwing, Long-tailed Tit, Blue Tit, Great Tit, House Sparrow and Chaffinch.



Wigeon



Pochard

## Lichens, liverworts, mosses and ferns

The talk at our meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> March was quite different. Having set up the complex projection system in the Sanctuary at Trinity Church ready for our speaker, Colin Oakes, to plug in his laptop, I was taken by surprise when he arrived and said he would not be showing any pictures to illustrate his talk. He did take advantage of the opportunity to use the clip-on wireless microphone provided, however. The subject of Colin's talk was lichens, liverworts, mosses and ferns, often referred to as lower plants. As usual the talk was in two halves, with a refreshment break in the middle, and it lasted for about an hour and a quarter, all delivered by the speaker without any notes. I now understand this is normal for all of Colin's talks which cover nearly 250 different subjects!

In his introduction, Colin explained that he was both an archaeologist and a botanist, and he talked first about the origins of the lower plants,

pointing out that some are survivors from the first plants to emerge from the seas to colonise the land. We heard that evidence from archaeological digs have shown that mosses were used as toilet paper by early man, and in more modern times that the bog mosses were much used in the field hospitals during the First World War for their antiseptic and absorbent qualities. We were told that modern day research suggests that many of the lower plants contain substances that could prove to be suitable for future medical use. Liverworts and mosses are known as bryophytes. Liverworts are thought to be the oldest plants on earth, having emerged from the seas some 500 thousand years ago. They have been fixing nitrogen for thousands of years so may continue to play an important role in helping to control climate change. Mosses have a very useful survival system, which allows them to dry out and rehydrate when conditions allow.



Examples of a moss (left) and a liverwort (right).



The most complex group covered was the lichens. These all contain two different organisms, a fungus and an alga. The lichen is around 70% fungal, so is classified as a fungus. The alga produces the carbohydrates needed by the fungus, and the fungal tissue protects the alga from excessive light, drought and heat. This controlled parasitism enables the lichen to colonise habitats where neither organism could survive on its own. Lichens are very long lived and can survive in extreme conditions. Although lichens can reproduce by a sexual process, this is not favourable for dispersal; so most lichens rely on a primitive method of thallus fragmentation, whereby dry brittle fragments of the old thalli break off to produce new lichen plants. Lichens produce lots of secondary

substances, which perform functions such as light screening, and defence against the weather and herbivores. The identification of lichens is complex and normally requires chemical tests. However, the majority of lichens can be easily separated into three main groups - crustaceous (forming an often cracked crust over the substrate), foliose (with a leafy growth over the substrate) and fruticose (forming a shrubby outgrowth from the substrate). Lichens are important as indicators of environmental pollution. Some are the source of litmus paper, some are used to make perfume, and one species is used to feed reindeer. Because they have lots of antiseptic qualities, lichens have been used for medicinal purposes since medieval times.



Examples of a lichen (left) and a fern (right).



Ferns originated in a world quite different to the conditions that exist today. Fossil remains indicate that in the cloudy humid prehistoric atmosphere, ferns grew to around 50ft in height. Although today there are ferns which will survive in fairly dry locations, they all require damp conditions to reproduce successfully from spores. Having roots and vascular systems for transporting water and nutrition, ferns are more like normal plants than the other groups covered in the talk, but they do not produce flowers and fruits, instead reproducing by means of spores. The life cycle of a fern goes through two alternating phases of generations. The sporophyte is the familiar fern plant, which produces spores. The second stage starts with a spore, which develops into a prothallus, looking a bit like a small liverwort, in which the sexual reproduction process takes place, resulting in the development of a new sporophyte. Horsetails reproduce in a similar way to ferns, but the prothallus stage is very short unlike the

club mosses, where the spores take several years to germinate, and the prothallus takes up to 15 years to reach sexual maturity. Fortunately club mosses can propagate vegetatively by their creeping stolons. Many of our native ferns are now extremely rare, and this is mainly the result of the Victorians' fascination for ferns, which resulted in many plants being uprooted by collectors for growing in gardens and in glass containers.

We certainly learnt a lot from Colin's talk, and I have received a number of favourable comments from members about its quality. At the end of his talk, Colin said that he hoped we would all take a greater interest in the lower plants. I have been told by one of our members that she now finds herself looking for these plants every time she goes for a walk. I think we will all be inspired by Colin's talk and pay more attention to these overlooked organisms.

Roger Wilding

## Bisham Barn Owl Group (BBOG) Working to conserve Barn Owls in the Thames Valley

We are pleased to include this article, which has been submitted by a relatively new local group, and we wish them every success in their conservation work relating to owls and kestrels.

**B**arn Owls are birds of open country, requiring rough tussocky grassland to find their favourite prey, the Field Vole. Such habitat is fast disappearing, but by leaving un-ploughed margins of four to six metres around crops, enough habitat can be created to support a pair of Barn Owls. Traditionally, Barn Owls would nest in holes in large old trees, farm outbuildings and barns. The loss of many of these nest sites over the last fifty years has been a major factor in the decline of the Barn Owl population. Providing nest boxes has proved to be a simple but effective way to help their recovery.

In late 2013, a group of volunteers came together to form the Bisham Barn Owl Group. They set up a small workshop to make a range of nest boxes for Barn, Tawny and Little Owls, and Kestrels. The boxes are offered to local landowners and farmers who have suitable habitat, in return for a donation to cover the cost. There has been a great response, with over fifty new owl boxes installed during 2014 in an area bordered by Stokenchurch, Beaconsfield, Windsor, Bracknell and Reading. In the Wycombe area alone, with help from the Chiltern Rangers, boxes have been installed at Booker Common, Hughenden Park and Holtspur Bank, while existing boxes at Gomm's Wood, Castlefield Wood, Desborough Castle, Highfield Wood and Tom Burt's Hill are now monitored by the Group. Tawny Owl boxes at these last two sites had successful nests in 2014.



Kestrel, Tawny Owl and Barn Owl boxes

Three Tawny Owl chicks at Tom Burt's Hill



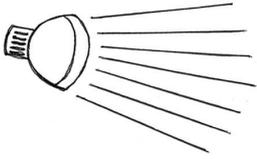
In 2015 the Group will be monitoring over 200 owl boxes as part of the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) Nest Recording Scheme. Where nests are successful the young birds will be ringed. The resulting data on the local owl population will provide the basis for future conservation projects. The nest monitoring and ringing work is carried out by qualified volunteers holding the appropriate BTO and Schedule 1 Barn Owl licenses, as required under the Wildlife and Countryside Act.

### How you can help:

If you would like to get involved with making and putting up owl boxes, or if you have owls on your land and would like to install an owl box, please contact Paul Warham at [barnowlbisham@gmail.com](mailto:barnowlbisham@gmail.com).

To read more about BBOG or to make a donation to support Barn Owl conservation, please visit the Group's website: <http://bishambarnowlgroup.blogspot.co.uk/p/contact-us.html>

## Spotlight on:- Round Wood



Left; Looking at Round Wood from Castlefield and Rowliff Woods LWS

Right: Inside the lower part of Round Wood



**R**ound Wood is a Local Wildlife Site of around 11 acres, comprising mixed deciduous woodland, chalk grassland and scrub, and an area of amenity grassland, which was partially planted with trees around twenty years ago. The site is owned by Wycombe District Council, and management is undertaken by the Chiltern Rangers Community Interest Company.

Round Wood was once part of a much larger area of continuous woodland. Even after the development of the Bookerhill estate some eighty years ago, an area of scrub and chalk grassland, known locally as The Grubbins, continued to provide a green corridor between Round Wood and Spring Coppice and Booker Common and Woods to the south, until Arundel Road, Warwick Avenue and adjoining roads with their additional housing appeared on the scene. The later development of half of Five Acre Wood cut the green link between Round Wood and Rowliff Wood. Despite its current isolation, Round Wood retains a great deal of wildlife interest, with lots of plants, butterflies and birds to see. During a couple of walks in April and July 2012, a total of 112 plant species were recorded there.

The easiest way to access the wood is from either Roundwood Road or from Bookerhill Road. There is no car park provided at Round Wood, but it is usually possible to park in Roundwood Road or Bookerhill Road, unless

there is a match at Adams Park, when the whole of Sands has a parking problem. The 32 bus provides a service every 15-20 minutes between Micklefield and Booker via the town centre bus station, and the second bus stop after the bus turns into Bookerhill Road from New Road on its way towards Booker enables anyone visiting the wood to get off the bus close to the entrance to the wood at the top of the hill, avoiding the steep climb when starting at the bottom of the wood.

Round Wood is not a very large site, and anyone wishing to walk further could consider leaving the site in the NW corner and walking along almost to the end of Hillbottom Road and taking the footpath to the right leading to Sands Bank Local Nature Reserve. Another possibility is to cross Lane End Road from the west side of Round Wood and take the footpath across the fields to High Barbers Wood and Sunter's Wood, returning via the edge of Hellbottom Wood and Sands Bank. If travelling by bus, you could then catch the hourly 48 bus back to the town centre from the junction of Hillbottom Road and Lane End Road, or walk to the Hour Glass crossroads in Sands to catch the frequent 32 bus back to the town.

A leaflet containing a map and description of Round Wood is available to download from the Chiltern Rangers website.

<http://www.chilternrangers.co.uk/round-wood/>

# Carver Hill update

In the last issue of our newsletter we commented in the "Spotlight on" article that the good quality chalk grassland on Carver Hill was likely to soon be dominated by Hawthorn scrub. We are pleased to be able to report that funding was provided, enabling the public footpath along the top of this hillside, together with some of the encroaching scrub to be cleared by volunteers working with the Chiltern Rangers Community Interest Company. As the photograph shows, a good job was done.



## Wildlife observations - December 2014 to March 2015

### December 2014

05/12/14 Kingfisher along stream in Shaftesbury St garden

### January 2015

08/01/15 Foxes mating in Deeds Grove garden in daytime

13/01/15 Kingfisher along stream in Shaftesbury St garden

16/01/15 Blackcap in Littleworth Rd, Downley garden

16/01/15 Treecreepers behind the Dyke and Mistle and Song Thrushes singing

17/01/15 Blackcap in Shaftesbury St garden

19/01/15 Kingfisher along stream in Shaftesbury St garden

20/01/15 Redwings in High Wycombe parish churchyard

21/01/15 Sparrowhawk in apple tree in Littleworth Rd garden

22/01/15 Blackcap in Littleworth Rd garden

23/01/15 Blackcaps (2 males) in Littleworth Rd garden

25/01/15 Great Garden Birdwatch in Littleworth Rd garden recorded Great Spotted Woodpecker, 6 Chaffinches, 7 Starlings, 2 Pheasants (eating the wallflowers), 4 Goldfinches, Coal Tit, 2 House Sparrows, Blue Tit, Woodpigeon, 2 Jackdaws, Blackcap and Blackbird

25/01/15 Blackcap and Great Spotted Woodpecker in Littleworth Rd garden

### February 2015

06/02/15 Pied wagtail and Blackcap in Littleworth Rd garden

07/02/15 Blackcap in Littleworth Rd garden

25/02/15 1<sup>st</sup> pair of Robins building in Deeds Grove back garden

27/02/15 2<sup>nd</sup> pair of Robins building in Deeds Grove back garden

27/02/15 Frogs awake in Deeds Grove garden pond

### March 2015

05/03/15 Mistle Thrushes, Song Thrushes and Blackbird singing on the Rye

05/03/15 Little Egret near Wye at Slate Meadow, Bourne End

05/03/15 Kingfisher along stream in Shaftesbury St garden

06/03/15 House Sparrows building under eaves in Deeds Grove garden

07/03/15 Brimstone in Littleworth Rd garden

07/03/15 Brimstone in Shaftesbury St garden

10/03/15 Small Tortoiseshell and Primroses along path above Hughenden Park

11/03/15 Hedgehog in Shaftesbury Street garden scoffing cat food

13/03/15 Hedgehog in Shaftesbury St garden scoffing cat food

19/03/15 Hedgehog in Shaftesbury St garden scoffing cat food

20/03/15 Red Kite eating loaf of bread in tree in Shaftesbury St garden

21/03/15 Skylarks singing at Marlow

26/03/15 Hedgehog in Shaftesbury St garden, plus House Sparrow, Great/Blue/Long-tailed and Coal Tits, Goldfinch, Chaffinch, Jackdaw, Blackbird, Robin, Starling and Pheasant

30/03/15 2 pairs of Robins feeding babies in Deeds Grove back garden

# Notice of the 2015 AGM and Wycombe and South Bucks Wildlife Supporters' Evening

This year's AGM is on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> May at 7.45 p.m. in The Sanctuary, Trinity United Reformed Church, London Road, High Wycombe HP11 1BJ. Parking at the rear of the building is free after 7.00 p.m., and there'll be no charge for admission to the AGM, the following meeting, or for the refreshments.

As usual, we'll keep the time for business matters as short as possible – our record is under 10 minutes! This means we will have plenty of time for an excitingly different meeting format for the Wycombe and South Bucks Wildlife Supporters' Evening which follows on at 8.00 p.m.

With an eye on the near, mid, and long term future of Wycombe Wildlife Group, this will very much be *your* evening, with a mixture of updates, presentations by members, socialising, and a chance to consider some matters affecting your Group and what it does.

You'll have a warm welcome, so do come along – we look forward to seeing you.

**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  
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**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.