PNNews

Conservation Group for the Prestwood Region including Great Missenden, the Hampdens, the Kingshills, North Dean and Speen.

Issue 47 **September 2018**

Chair's Chat

Over the past year although Prestwood Nature has managed to continue to maintain its sites and hold field walks and talks it has been a struggle to deal with those administrative tasks which are absolutely essential to the smooth running of the Society.

Sadly this year Kieron Sweeney passed away in the summer and our Membership Secretary has had to cut back his activities on medical advice. So the administration of the Council falls on a very few people all of whom do actually have lives outside PN.

With our AGM approaching on the 6th November we need to find members to stand for the Council. We need some new blood and in the main part of this newsletter you will see some advertisements setting out how you can help us – have a good look at them and then, to misquote a past American President, "ask not what Prestwood Nature can do for you but what you can do for Prestwood Nature?"

The Membership Secretary is a vital member of the Council and without someone to carry out this role Prestwood Nature will find it very difficult to continue to function effectively. Check the advert and apply today!

John Obee who has led the project at Boug's Meadow since its inception has regretfully decided to hang up his scythe and put away his watering can. We are looking for someone to take on this role; later in the newsletter you will find a brief job description and if administration is not your forte then perhaps project managing is. So go down and have a good look at Boug's Meadow – once a bit of scrubland – that, with John's vision and the hard work of many volunteers, is turning into an oasis of calm in the middle of Great Missenden. Then get in touch with John (jk333@btinternet.com) to find out more about the project.

If you haven't much time to spare, consider if you can help at out at our evening meetings – setting up the room and serving refreshments. And if you can't do any of these things perhaps you have a space in which you could store our display boards between events. Just let us know: all contact details are on page 11.

I hope you don't think from the above that PN is being badly run – it is not. The members who are filling these roles at present are doing an incredible job but we do need to look to the future and make sure that when the current incumbents come to the end of their terms of office there are plenty of people to take PN into the future. So over to you!

Vanessa Rickett

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Cyclists searching for ducks at Sheepwash
Photo Vanessa Rickett



Yellow Pimpernel



Large Skipper



Holly Blue on Knapweed

Members' News

Warm and sunny for some. Withering drought for others. It's been a mixed summer. This is the first year that I've known the spring in Angling Spring to dry out completely. That's not just down to the weather, however - increased water extraction has brought the water table to possibly its lowest ever. For those waiting to see the Misbourne flow again through Boug's Meadow, dream on.

I checked out some of our wet spots (good for plants and invertebrates) in June, like the marshy area in Peterley Wood and Angling Spring. Most plants were surviving, such as the Plicate Sweet-grass and Compact Rush by Angling Spring, and the rare Narrow Buckler-fern in Peterley, where there were a dozen clumps, but Yellow Pimpernel at the latter was down to one small patch. Doctor's Meadow at Little Missenden was in as good condition as ever, because the Misbourne was flowing from Deep Mill, although it was absent above there in Abbey Park. In marshy places, even when the surface is dry, there may be moist soil just underneath available to roots. The effect of drought, if it becomes more frequent in future years, would mainly be to reduce the size of marsh areas, but water abstraction and a low water-table might stop springs underlying them from flowing at all and thus destroy the whole marsh. The effect of drought was more evident in dry open areas, where many plants had drooping and shrivelled leaves. Thin soils such as those on slopes are particularly vulnerable and drought may affect the soil fungi and invertebrates as well as plants; while the effect on trees is not usually immediately evident, it could lead to bough loss in future years. Many trees were fruiting abundantly, which may be a reaction to drought, concentrating resources on future generations when the present tree is under stress, at the risk of self-sacrifice.

This is the background to this year's observations. Generally warmth-loving insects were doing quite well (but not all), while there were fewer plant sightings, especially of orchids.

Meadow Browns and Marbled Whites were out quite early, from mid-June, while we had to wait until 26 June for Gatekeeper and 7 July for Ringlet (**Christine Hoskins**); Skippers, both Large and Small, were more in evidence than they have been of late (although the report on our Butterfly Transect at the end of the year will provide the best evidence); while it seems to have been an excellent year for Holly Blue (as Christine also confirmed). The biggest surprise, however, came from having more than one Purple Emperor sighting in a year for the first time (four altogether - **Karen Disney** on 28 June, **Jenny Horwood** and myself on the 30th and **Colin Tyler** the following day.) Such a flurry of activity might mean a higher population or that the butterflies were more desperate for moisture and so coming to ground more. (For more about this butterfly see the separate article in this issue.) Silver-washed Fritillary seemed to feature as much as in earlier years, the first on 7 July (Hoskins) and more a week later (**George Lewis**, myself) but the shade-loving Speckled Wood was little evident - as were, surprisingly, the colourful "nymphalids" - Peacock,



Mating pair Scarlet Tiger moth *Photo Colin Tyler*



Rosemary Leaf-beetle



Corky fruited Water Dropwort aka Prestwood Parsley

Small Tortoiseshell, Red Admiral. No-one reported a Painted Lady until 20 August (Hoskins), so that the hot weather does not seem to have attracted the usual immigrants - either because they found suitable conditions on the mainland before they got to us or because the lack of water restricted activity. Whatever happened, during August I got the impression that most of the "browns" were finished, numbers of all butterflies were low, and they were predominantly "whites". On the other hand, there were plenty of immigrant Hummingbird Hawkmoths around from 1 July (Tyler) through 18 July (Hoskins) to 1 August (**Jeanette Hedley**). Another moth featured this year - the colourful Scarlet Tiger, which I saw in Great Missenden on 20 June, while Colin saw a mating pair on 4 July at Boug's Meadow. This was formerly a scarce moth restricted to wet sites, but it has been expanding its range over the last few years and we may well see more of it in future. This is the first year we have seen it in our area.

Other insect reports were unusually few. It was probably a matter of emerge early, mate quickly and disappear, while wasps seemed to finish the serious business of nesting before August and aimless workers became a nuisance, and hornets were also much in evidence. On 19 June I saw a Tree-hopper in the old churchyard at Great Missenden, the first I have seen for many years. Jeanette Hedley watched a female Common Darter dragonfly emerging from her pond on 10 July. George Lewis had a Lesser Horntail on 30 July - a large sawfly whose larvae live inside the trunks of pine trees (only our second record). Even less welcome was the immigrant Rosemary Leaf-beetle Val and I saw on its host plant at Giles Gate - very colourful but not good for herb gardens.

Reptiles and amphibians were largely keeping out of the way in the shadiest wettest places they could find - Christine had one cooling off in her pond on 26 June (while no doubt polishing off the frogs and newts). Bird sightings are never numerous in the summer, but were even fewer this year, although it was pleasing to see Yellowhammers at Hampden Bottom and **John Obee** saw them at Boug's Meadow, along with Song Thrush. John noted that some birds appeared to be having difficulty finding food resources, with Crows trying to get at his bird-feeder, and George Lewis had a similar experience with a Herring Gull!

While it was not a good year for orchids generally, it is interesting that some have started to appear in unusual places. There was a Pyramidal Orchid under a hedge by the road in Prestwood, not far from where Violet Helleborine flowered 2016-17; both sites are on clay, whereas both are usually found on chalk. The same applies to a Violet Helleborine that has appeared in Peterley Wood last year and this (George Lewis), and, quite remarkably, Bee Orchids in the gardens at Giles Gate (Jeanette Hedley). What is going on?

On behalf of the Bucks Rare Plants Group, Val and I regularly monitor Corky-fruited Water-dropwort (or, as I prefer, Prestwood Parsley) at its only site in the county, centred on the Wren Davis farm. It goes from strength to strength there and is continually expanding its range,



Wildlife Garden August 2018 Photo Tina Hillas



Corn spurrey (Wren Davis field)



Cornfield Early days August 2018 Photo Tina Hillas



Rubus leptadenes Angling Spring Wood

probably spread by cattle as they are moved from field to field. But that would not explain why it is also spreading along nearby roadsides (Wycombe Road from Collings Hanger Farm to Giles Gate, all along Lodge Lane), despite the best efforts of Transport for Bucks to cut it when flowering. The latest extension to its range is a single plant in a lawn along Westrick Walk, which the householder kindly mowed around. The seeds are quite heavy and are not likely to be spread by wind, but maybe human shoes are as effective as cows' hooves! Another "umbellifer" (parsley-like plants) that seems to be expanding in our area is Stone Parsley, which we first recorded in 2013 on Denner Hill and in the centre of Great Missenden. It has now appeared for the first time beside a walkway on the Lovell Estate in Prestwood.

Many members will have seen the display of Corncockle at Boug's Meadow, in a section that was dug up and sown to a cornfield annual mixture. **Tina Hillas** and I have now established a small experimental "cornfield" beside our Wildlife Garden at Greenlands Lane intended as a permanent reserve for endangered arable annuals (see separate article). I also took the opportunity of visiting the new wheat fields on the Wren Davis farm, where old specialist varieties have been sown for bread-making by John Letts. I spotted several basic kinds - Bread Wheat, Bearded Wheat, Bluebeard Rivet Wheat, and Einkorn - but there are many varieties of these. A small patch of Cornflower had also been sown and was flowering well. This was in a newly ploughed field and the cultivation had disturbed what was obviously a vast reservoir of Corn Spurrey seeds in the soil, resulting in an incredible display of tens of thousands of these plants, which we generally think of as quite rare. Other wild arable annuals here were Black Bent, Rye Brome, two varieties of Common Fumitory, Scented Mayweed. Green Field-speedwell, Wild Radish, White Mustard and Charlock. Jeanette Hedley reports that two rare arable annuals in her garden - Night-flowering Catchfly and Yellow-juiced Poppy - continue to flourish there.

Last year we confirmed that the rare endemic bramble *Rubus leptadenes* still grew in Angling Spring Wood, where it was first recorded in the 1930s. This year I visited with Andy McVeigh, County Plant Recorder, in order to plot where this bramble was growing. We found five separate patches, all along the ride, except for one set back about 30 metres. We also discovered another rare bramble there, *Rubus hylonomus*. Altogether we have now recorded eight types of bramble in the wood, of which *Rubus dasyphyllus* is the commonest and is very invasive, growing particularly in cleared and disturbed areas. It may need controlling, as it can dominate and out-shade the rarer species. The roe-deer in the wood are helpful in this respect, as they browse bramble, although they probably do not differentiate the common and rare species! We should perhaps give them some botanical training!

Tony Marshall

Saving the Ghosts of Yesteryear

Tina Hillas and I have begun a new project at the Wildlife Garden by Greenlands Lane Allotments. This is intended as a reserve for arable annuals ("weeds") - native plants once common in cornfields but now almost eliminated by modern agricultural methods. A similar, much larger reserve can be visited at College Lake Nature Reserve, where it is similarly maintained entirely by volunteers.

We dug up a small plot in late spring and, in order to replicate the original cornfield conditions, sowed a couple of lines of wheat (two varieties of Bread and Bearded Wheat, kindly donated by Virginia Deradour and John Letts at Collings Hanger Farm). The wheat provides shade and support for the small annuals. I had a couple of samples of seed that I am largely saving for autumn sowing (they usually need to overwinter before germinating), but I put a few of each in the plot as well. Otherwise we just left it to see what would come of its own accord from the seed-bank in the soil. At a work-party on 1 September it was planned to harvest the wheat, remove any remaining large weeds like sow-thistle, plantain, dock and dandelion left after Tina removed some earlier, and then dig the rest in so that the seed-bank can be renewed. Two weeks later (14 September) it was planned to sow more wheat and several types of endangered annual, to see what will germinate next year. Most of the seeds have been kindly donated by the College Lake project, although Jeanette Hedley has also promised some from her garden. Not everything will grow successfully in the particular soil at this site, but we shall see what works and aim to preserve the successful plants year by year, replicating the same traditional methods of digging up every autumn, as these annuals will only germinate in disturbed soil. If this experiment is successful we might seek further small plots on other soil types, particularly on chalk. We just have to keep the project small enough to be manageable by a few volunteers.

When I visited the plot on 22 July, apart from the two varieties of wheat, I recorded 30 plants, including fool's parsley, scarlet pimpernel, many-seeded goosefoot, black bindweed, common fumitory, dove's-foot cranesbill, red dead-nettle, groundsel and field pansy. Quite a haul for the existing seed-bank, although most are common enough (except the goosefoot). What was especially encouraging was that one of the seeds I had deliberately introduced had also produced flowers and ripe fruit - Prickly Poppy *Papaver argemone*, a small poppy with spiny seed-pods. This is very rare these days and it would be great if we could preserve it. While the "pollinator-friendly" garden next to the plot was particularly abuzz with insects, I was pleased to find a couple using our cornfield weeds - a marmalade fly (a common striped hoverfly) and a red-and-black plant-bug *Corizus hyoscyami*, a new immigrant to our area, having previously been confined to the south coast.

Tony Marshall



Seed-pod of prickly poppy



Many-seeded goosefoot

‘Twas on a strawberry moon

Thank you Fiona Waller
Nature custodian of Hampden Bottom farm
Your species rich Chiltern chalk grasslands
We were there to understand
Three-quarters the size of Prestwood
Yet a green and pleasant land

So we stood
In awe
At what could unfold
For there were glow-worms
They were here
Or so we were told

‘Twas the weather
The right equipment we had
Shoes and even Obee’s
One and only
Haversack

But no it was early
For dusk we would wait
“Surely something else?” Fiona did hark
Something to do as you wait for the dark

You would not believe what I have seen
But you must
A cornucopia of species
Before the dusk
Orchids, pyramid or bee
Hawk’s-bit and bedstraw
Oxford ragwort or sort
Black medic or self-heal take your pick

Badger, then roe deer
Barking muntjac then calling at distance
Tawny owl and buzzard
Perhaps even the young
Nature’s so noisy when you’re nosey

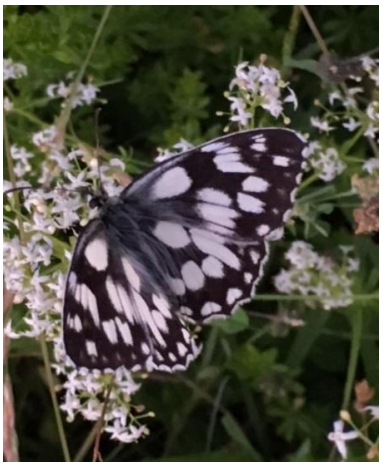
So watch, listen … experience the thrill
The first marbled white of the season
… wait a second
then a third
a totally marbled-hill



Glow-worm hunters at Hampden Bottom Farm



Pyramidal orchid and Ragwort



Marbled white butterfly

But lest we forget
A quest was to unfold
Even future stories to be told
In the valley behold
We were sold
Totally sold

Strangers at start, now a mission in mind
Chequers-bound
In search of a find
Strolling gently
Ever so gently
'cross the ground
A sensible exit must surely be found
The ayes to the right
The eyes to the left
Speakers, callers, then order

'Twas in the gloom of the strawberry moon
A final field we did circle
Waiting for a holler
From the inspiring Waller

There was little debate
And nothing to compare
For I was there
'Twas a sight to behold
For my two-penn'orth that's all it cost
You could not believe
A lifetime tick
I did achieve

For there it was
Not one but three
A glow
Such a glow
What a dream

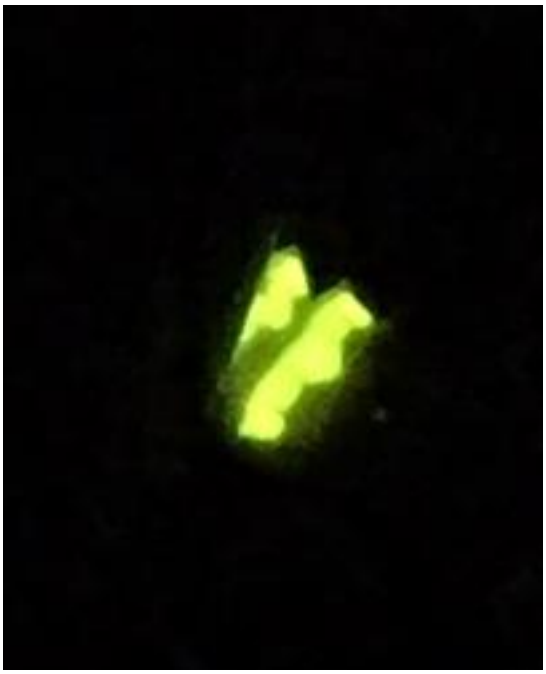
A wonder of nature
Prestwood's nature
A glow-worm I have seen
'bet you wish you'd been
For I have seen

Thank you the Wallers
Of Hampden Bottom Farm
Nature's coming home…..your home

And so we depart
Three glow-worms on a t'shirt
Well it's a start!



Strawberry Moon



Glow-worms

Words and Pictures by *Colin Tyler*

Boug's Meadow

Boug's Meadow is an ancient wetland meadow situated right in the heart of Great Missenden. It is owned by Chiltern District Council which requested that Prestwood Nature maintain it as a natural area. It has at the Southern edge the (at present dry) stream bed of the headwaters of the River Misbourne. After some research it was named Boug's after one of the earliest owners of the land. The end of the field contains the remains of an old drove road which in the past led to the church and Square.

In 2006 Prestwood Nature agreed to support the natural environment in Boug's by appointing a Project Leader and volunteers to set about enhancing the biodiversity and removing dead wood from the copse.
When we started the meadow was high with nettles every summer, the stream more often dry than flowing and the surrounding hedge was patchy and unruly. There were however butterflies, insects, bugs and birds and records of newts.

CDC has continued to support PN's work in Boug's meadow and with PN resisted calls last year to transform it into a car park. PN gets regular messages of appreciation from residents of Abbeyfield and other locals who appreciate the calm natural environment and quiet picnic table and seat.

These photographs were taken in July to show the meadow as it has been this year.



Cornflowers & oxeye daisies
Photo Jenny Smith



Bougs 2018 Dry stream bed and flower meadow
Photo Jenny Smith

After 12 years our Boug's project leader is stepping down, so we are advertising the vacancy below. Please consider if you can help in any way.

Project leader Boug's Vacancy

The project leader is responsible to the Prestwood Nature Council and has the help of a regular band of willing volunteers to maintain the site.

Project leader tasks include:

a) Planning dates for mowing/work parties in consultation with regular volunteers and PN Members

b) Collecting and returning tools required, organising and supervising the volunteers. Complete a Risk Assessment. Help to keep volunteers of all ages safe and well.

c) Making regular visits to the site to check safety issues, and the need for hedge cutting, weeding and watering or any urgent matters.

d) Providing regular reports to the Prestwood Nature Council, also a budget projection for the year and an Annual Report of progress.

If you are interested in leading the project at Boug's Meadow please get in touch with John Obee for more information about what is involved. His email is jk333@btinternet.com. He will be pleased to hear from you.

Other ways to become involved and support Prestwood Nature – Pages 11 and 12

Imperial Secrets (Partially) Revealed

The **Purple Emperor** is a rare butterfly of which we have had reports most years - our database contains eleven sightings in the fifteen years from 2004 onwards. Individual butterflies are usually seen when coming down low to take moisture in a garden or to bask in a sunny spot (in one case on a car). The mystery was where these individuals were coming from, it being likely that there was a breeding-place somewhere around here. I have had many conversations over the years with the species champion for Butterfly Conservation, Dennis Dell, and we have been on several field trips together, trying to identify where the imperial throne might be. It was known that the males needed tall trees (with an apparent preference for oaks), usually the highest in a particular wood, where they would occasionally display in the canopy, and where they spent virtually all their time. At the same time, the females only laid their eggs on broad-leaved willows (sallow), of which only goat willow is at all common in this area. We could identify some possible woods with tall trees, but there never were many sallow, these being scattered around our area and not particularly a woodland plant.

After many fruitless searches Dennis began to formulate a new theory and this was confirmed when on 30 June this year Val and I witnessed, from a bedroom window, a female emperor egg-laying for at least an hour on the large sallow growing in our front garden. The theory now is that, while males congregate in a few prime display sites where they can be found by females to mate, the females spread far and wide looking for any well-grown sallow on which to lay eggs. They did not need sallow close to where the males lived. So while in our area we do not have any concentrations of goat willow, there are plenty dotted around to support a decent population of emperors. One of our neighbours has been encouraging us to cut back our tree, which is taller than her garden wall, but I am afraid she is going to have to wait some while yet! The caterpillars, which are initially very small and brown, have probably hatched by now and they will feed until winter, when they will hibernate camouflaged against small twigs, resuming in the spring, when they turn green, and feed. They will not pupate until next June. I regularly cut the tree back every three years or so, as a traditional willow pollard, and was due to do so last winter, except that robins chose to nest in it and scuppered my plans (fortunately as it turned out). I now have a dilemma, because in order to pollard the tree (which produces lots of luxuriant growth just right for the emperor) I shall have to destroy any caterpillars that happen to be hibernating there. Being certain that eggs were laid this summer I shall certainly refrain from cutting this winter, but I will need to do so the following winter, hoping that the following summer any wandering emperors will select someone else's willow to lay their eggs.

One secret, however, remains. Where do the males display in our area? There may be more than one location. Going from the sparse records we have one of the most likely candidates appears to be Angling Spring Wood (twice seen there, in 2011 and 2018, and not far from my house), but almost any woodland with mature trees is possible. Next time you are around Angling Spring in July, find a comfortable spot from which you can observe the tops of the highest trees, and watch with binoculars for half an hour or so in bright sunshine - you never know, you may catch the purple flash of a male emperor gleaming in the sun as it rises into the air. And the final secret will be revealed.

Tony Marshall



Male emperor, July 2018, photograph by Colin Tyler

Flower Portrait No.20 - Perennial Flax

There are only four members of the Flax genus *Linum* in this country. One is the introduced crop plant grown for linseed-oil or for linen fibre, *Linum usitatissimum*, which turns some fields bright blue in summer. The others are smaller native plants. The commonest and smallest is Fairy Flax *L. catharticum* with tiny white flowers, which grows in most of our well-preserved chalk grasslands. The remaining two are dainty pale blue flowers, Pale Flax *L. bienne*, which is uncommon and grows mostly in coastal areas, and Perennial Flax *L. perenne*, which is rare and mostly grows in chalk grassland in East Anglia, especially the continuation of the Chiltern chalk ridge east to Cambridge. Neither of these two flowers has been recorded in Buckinghamshire, and the only site for Perennial Flax in the Chilterns is at the far eastern end in Hertfordshire in the chalk grassland nature reserve at Therfield Heath.

Or was. Through a chain of acquaintances, a lady in Hyde End (on the road to Chesham out of Great Missenden) got in touch with me a few weeks ago to say she thought she had Perennial Flax in her lawn (which is on chalk). The next day I was there examining a patch of flowers several metres long and a metre or so wide, mostly now in seed, but still some with the distinctive dark-veined pale blue flowers. I checked that they were not pale flax, or impoverished forms of cultivated flax, and could confirm that they were indeed what she thought.

The discovery was very fortunate. Most years this lawn is cut in the summer, which would have prevented any of the plants flowering and becoming noticed. It was only because of the drought this year, and the fact that the grass had hardly grown, that it was left to produce this amazing harvest. It was fortunate, too, that the householders were interested in natural history and that they could identify the likely candidate from a flower book. Fortunate, too, that they had a friend who had a friend who recognised that this was something that should be reported to the botanical community.

Perennial flax can be recognised by the woody base to the stem, which shows it is perennial, but this can be difficult to see buried in the turf. It is far easier to look at the globular seed capsules, for in this species the sepals only reach half way up the capsule, whereas in the other species they are just as long and largely enclose it from view. The blue stigmas in the centre of the flower have a small rounded head, whereas in the other two blue species the stigma ends in an elongated club. You can tell perennial flax from pale flax, too, from the leaves, which are held close to the stem in the latter, but stand out from it in the former.

This patch of flowers is obviously well established and almost certainly native. The lawn was once part of the grounds of a public house and has probably never been farmed. There is no reason to think that this plant had not always been there. Our chalk grassland nature reserves are well researched, so it is unlikely that the plant occurs in any of them. But there are many lawns on chalk in this area where the plant could go unnoticed in the same way as at this location, because of frequent mowing. It is always worth laying off mowing until autumn one year and seeing what flowers appear. You may find something equally rare or even more so.

Tony Marshall







Seed heads

Invitation to Join PN Council

Although Prestwood Nature is a small charitable society it needs volunteers to carry out administration so that we can continue to remain in contact with our members and respond to their ideas. We also have overall responsibility for maintaining our sites, arranging field walks and evening talks and liaising with other conservation-minded groups

If you have a couple of hours every two months to come to our Council meetings, to discuss your views on how best to develop the group and bring some new ideas to the table, please consider joining the Council.

You may be able to bring new skills - do you have experience with IT and computers? Or maybe you have artistic abilities which we could use in promoting ourselves and the work we do? Perhaps you are someone who enjoys being involved with others and can turn their hand to whatever is needed?

Please take some time to think about this because without you, the members, being involved in running Prestwood Nature, the society will not be able to flourish and meet its goals of protecting and enhancing the local environment.

Self-Nomination Forms are available from the General Secretary and will be circulated with all documents prior to the AGM. Please feel free to discuss with any of our Council members what it means to them to be on the Council – their contact details will be found on the back page.

See next page for other ways to help PN. Thanks

Council Member profile



Julie Hopton has been a PN Council Member for several years and has been much appreciated for her work with children and their families at many of PN's activities including holiday fun at the Great Missenden library and Moth Nights at Boug's and Prestwood Nature Reserve. She also fosters an injured Noctule bat, called Rose who cannot be returned to the wild, as she is unable to hunt.

Membership Secretary wanted

What's involved in being membership secretary? You need to be happy to:

- Work on a computer and enter details on a basic data base.
- Write regular monthly emails to the members informing them about upcoming events.
- Inform members when subscriptions are due for renewal.
- Receive cheques and cash and pass them to the Treasurer.
- Report to the Council at meetings (6 to 7 a year).

The Membership Secretary is one of the 4 officers of the Council and thus entitled to chocolate biscuits at each meeting! The Membership Secretary is a vital member of the Council. Without someone to carry out this role Prestwood Nature would find it very difficult to function effectively

I found this a great experience for getting to know the members and providing a conduit for information to flow between the members and the PN Council. It was great to help people to see how they could both learn about the environment and improve the habitat for wildlife.

If you would like to find out more about what the role entails please get in touch with me chair@prestwoodnature.org or any member of the Council who will be happy to talk to you about the chocolate biscuits or any other matter. (Contact details can be found on page 12)

More Help Needed

Prestwood Nature does not have any storage space of its own and we now have a problem of where to store our display boards when they are not in use. Does anyone have any space which we could use? A dry garage or spare bedroom would be ideal – there are four boards but if you could home even one that would help us greatly. Please email admin@prestwoodnature.org, or chair@prestwoodnature.org or any member of the Council if you can help.

PN Council and Contacts 2018

Council members 2018	Phone	Email	**Project**
Chris Jolly	865017	jolly916@btinternet.com	Newsletter Distribution
Colin Tyler	NA	treasurer@prestwoodnature.org	Treasurer
Jenny Smith	866426	admin@prestwoodnature.org	Secretary
Julie Hopton	07931575371	juliehopton421@btinternet.com	Family Activities /Talks
Vanessa Rickett	866516	membership@prestwoodnature.org.	Membership Secretary
Ross McVean	890229	ross871@hotmail.co.uk	Events Coordinator
Val Marshall	864251	newsletter@prestwoodnature.org.	Hedges Trees/Newsletter editor
Vanessa Rickett	866516	chair@prestwoodnature.org	Chair /Kiln Common Orchard
Other contacts			
David Page	863176	pageshouse@aol.com	Holy Trinity, PNNews printer
Fiona Waller	862686	fionacwaller@gmail.com	Sheepwash pond
John Obee	865564	jk333@btinternet.com	Boug's Meadow
Karen van Oostrum	07910684339	karenjvano@outlook.com	Family walks
Philip Pratt	523869	highbeeches1@yahoo.co.uk	PN reserve/Chiltern Society
Sylvia Bennett	866302	sylvia@mrbennett.co.uk	Butterfly Transect
Tina Hillas	NA	admin@prestwoodnature.org	Pollinator Friendly Garden
Tony Marshall	864251	records@prestwoodnature.org.	Surveys/Wildlife records
Angling Spring Wood		admin@prestwoodnature.org	Angling Spring Wood

Dates for your Diary

September		
1 Saturday Pollinator Friendly Garden 10am -12 noon	General tidying and Autumn clearance	*Contact Tina Hillas for more info*
29 Saturday Family Autumn Hedgerow Walk No.3 2-4pm	Meet Karen van Oostrum at Prestwood Village Hall	*Contact Karen van Oostrum for more info*
30 Sunday Sheepwash Pond 10 am – 12 noon	Restoration and tidying	*See PN website for more details Contact Fiona Waller*
October		
7 Sunday Boug's Meadow 10.00am-1:00pm	Free parking Link Rd CP General tidying after contractor cut	*Contact John Obee for more info*
14 Saturday Fungus Foray 10:30am -1pm	Meet/park at Prestwood Sports Centre to foray in Lodge Wood.	*Contact Tony Marshall for more info*
20 Saturday Pollinator Friendly Garden 10am -12 noon	General tidying and final Autumn clearance	*Contact Tina Hillas for more info*
November		
6 Tuesday PN Talk 7:30-8:30 followed by 8:30 AGM	Orchids and Butterflies of the Upper Thames Region by Malcolm Brownsword at Prestwood Village Hall	*Contact Vanessa Rickett for more info*

Enjoy the talks at local Village Halls? Enjoy meeting others with similar interests over a cup of tea?

We are in need of some willing helpers at our talks. All offers of assistance welcome!

Could you turn up just about 15 minutes before the start of evening meetings to help put out chairs and/or information boards and stay for another 15 minutes at the end of the talk to put the chairs away?

We also need a couple of people to serve refreshments in the interval – just a matter of boiling a kettle to make tea and coffee and hand out biscuits. (Washing up afterwards is the biggest chore).

If you feel you could give us a hand with either of these tasks please contact either the Secretary admin@prestwoodnature.org **or Chair** chair@prestwoodnature.org. Thank you.