PNNews

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

Issue 49
May 2019

Chair's Chat

Lately there have been many articles in the press and on the radio about both climate change and the loss of habitat both locally and globally.
As a beekeeper I am very much aware of the problems being faced by pollinators locally. But these problems do not just threaten my honey bees and my personal enjoyment of working with, and learning about, such interesting creatures (not to mention the honey they make!) Other insects such as bumblebees, hoverflies, ants and wasps, not to mention various other flies and beetles that play an important role in cleaning up the habitat are becoming extinct, often before we even realise they exist. Part of the remit of Prestwood Nature is to help improve the local environment and Tina and her group of assistants are well on the way to doing this at the Pollinator Friendly Garden where they grow plants to attract and benefit local insects; we hope that the consequence of this will be to encourage people to use similar plants in their own gardens and provide a habitat that many different animals will be able to thrive in. Let's make our gardens not just pollinator-friendly but hedgehog-friendly too!

Because climate change and habitat loss are going to affect the lives of our children and grandchildren far more than us, we are trying to engage with the youngsters to introduce them to the wildlife around them. Karen's Spring Walk in April finished at the Pollinator Friendly Garden and on the way they were able to look for bumblebees as well as flowers. On the walk in July we hope that better weather will mean that we can find and identify more butterflies and bees and teach the children about their fascinating life cycles. Adults too are more than welcome to learn about the insects all around us.

In an article about eco-schools later in the newsletter Jenny Smith quotes the American politician Barbara Mikulski: *"Each one of us can make a difference. Together we make change."* Perhaps if we can all make changes in our ways of gardening in Prestwood our wildlife will benefit from the difference.

Vanessa Rickett

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White-tailed bumblebee



Song Thrush



Dingy skipper, Prestwood Picnic Site (Colin Tyler)



Red-green Carpet on the blue carpet



Immature male broad-bodied chaser (Colin Tyler)

Members' News January-May 2019

At the beginning of the year, when most plants and creatures close down, the main activity is among the birds. This year we did not have any exciting rare winter visitors, the most unusual record being of a Stock Dove seen around the Chequers area in Prestwood (***Paul Moore***). There were good numbers of the usual Redwings and Fieldfares (large mixed flock east of Nairdwood Lane seen by ***Mandy Cotton***) and a stay-over Blackcap (***Jeanette Hedley***).

On 1st March ***Virginia Deradour*** walked around her farm and recorded 36 different species, the most notable being Fieldfare, Marsh Tit, Meadow Pipit, Nuthatch, Skylark and Stock Dove. We are lucky around here to have so much wildlife-friendly farmland.

A mild winter has led to early broods. I saw a Song Thrush with young along Nairdwood Lane on 14 April and as I write, on 10 May, there are young blackbirds, robins, and chaffinches in the garden.

One of the fun events of late winter is to look out for the first signs of spring. This year the first was Frogs mating in a garden pond in Kingshill (**Martin Webster**) on 11 February, although he did not report spawn until 4 March, while Jeanette saw spawn in her pond on 23 February. By 2 March there was a good crowd of thrashing frogs in Sheepwash, with plenty of spawn already present. They are always later in my own pond, which is rather shaded and cool, with spawn clusters only appearing on 19 March. I have not seen any tadpoles, however, which is worrying, either in Sheepwash or at home.

The first butterfly report was 17 February, with overwintered Brimstones down in Great Missenden (***Paul Heath, John Obee***). Many reports of brimstone came in over the subsequent days, and numbers were very encouraging, but we had to wait until 28 March before any other overwintering butterflies were reported, when ***George Lewis*** noted Peacock, Red Admiral and Small Tortoiseshell. The day before I had seen a very early Holly Blue in Great Missenden station car-park. Their numbers built up and they became one of our more common butterflies this spring, even though they are much less conspicuous than the other species around. Orange-tip was seen first on 10 April, a more usual date, by ***Val Marshall***. I saw all the above species except Red Admiral at the Picnic Site on 19 April, plus our first Speckled Wood. (Roe-deer were raucously barking their mating calls in the neighbouring Meadsgarden Wood at the same time.) It was not long before our rarer spring butterflies also appeared at the Picnic Site - Green Hairstreak 21 April (***John Obee***) and Dingy Skipper 29 April (***Colin Tyler***). Colin also saw the first Small Copper there on 3 May.

As for our other insects, my first Honey Bees were visiting crocuses on 19 February and 7-spot Ladybirds were emerging from 24 February (***George Lewis***, followed one day later by ***Tina Hillas***). More surprisingly, on the same day George spotted one of our overwintering moths in his garden - Red-green Carpet - not usually seen before April, so responding to a mild winter like the holly blue. Towards the end of March there was plenty of bee activity with swarms of honey bees on my *Skimmia japonica* flowers (obviously a good garden shrub for attracting pollinators), queen bumble-bees, and the Hairy-footed Flower-bee *Anthophora plumipes* on Hidcote Comfrey among other early flowers. The last seems to have become increasingly frequent over the years - a change from the usual insect declines and disappearances. My first Bee-fly of the year was on 29



Myopa buccata (Internet download)



Wild Pansy



Semi-free morel, Meadsgarden Field (Val Marshall)

April at Peterley Manor Farm. ***Colin Tyler*** said that the 7-spot ladybirds were abundant at the Picnic Site by 3 May, when he also saw a dragonfly, a recently-emerged male Broad-bodied Chaser.

Two rarer insects might be mentioned here. I was searching inside old dried specimens of the Birch Polypore bracket for a particular rare beetle that may be found there in the spring. I did not find it, but did come across another Notable species, *Eledona agricola*, which I have only seen once before, 13 years ago, in an old Sulphur Polypore (Chicken-of-the-Woods). On 16 April I noticed an uncommon fly, again after not seeing it for 21 years, the very odd-looking large-jowled *Myopa buccata*, parasitic on bumble-bees, which sometimes goes under the clumsy English name of "Variegated Spring Bee-grabber". It was lying in wait on a patch of Green Alkanet in Church Path, next to a group of Ramsons, a plant with which it is often associated for some reason.

Aside from the garden snowdrops and crocuses, and those plants that flower throughout winter, like daisy and red dead-nettle, the first native plant I saw flowering was Lesser Celandine on 19 February. On 3 March ***Tina Hillas*** reported that the Wild Pansies we had planted in the Mini-cornfield at Greenlands Lane were already in flower, followed a week later by Wall Speedwell and Field Pansy. A very early Meadow Buttercup was opening its first bud at Great Missenden station car-park on 13 March, while at the same time Primroses were opening. A vigorous plant of False Oxlip (a natural hybrid between primrose and cowslip), which appeared of its own accord in my garden meadow few years ago, was in full flower on 14 March and can still be seen now in mid-May. It is a magnificent specimen. Other dates of first flowering were:

Dog's Mercury 16 March (Val Marshall)
Marsh Marigold 18 March (Tina Hillas)
Common and Grey Field-Speedwells 22 March
Coltsfoot, Gtr Stitchwort, Barren Strawberry, Bluebell 30 March
Garlic mustard 10 April (Val)
Goldilocks Buttercup 12 April (Val)
Slender Speedwell, Green Alkanet 16 April
Common Wintercress 4 May (Val)

There is not much fungal activity so early in the year, but some fungi are evident if you look for them. As a sign of spring every year is the emergence of the St George's Mushroom, traditionally on St George's Day, 23 April. They were up in Boug's Meadow on 22 April says Tina. It is also the time for Morels, of which I saw a fine specimen of Semi-free Morel in Meadsgarden Field on 19 April. Unfortunately that is one morel that is <u>not</u> good to eat. It sometimes appears in the Picnic Site too. The bright yellow rust *Melampsora populnea* was evident on Dog's Mercury at the Picnic Site on the same day. Less often noticed is the rather dull *Hypocrea pulvinata* which forms patches over the underside of old bracket fungi, which I observed in Lodge Wood on 22 April.

Finally, Val and I came across one of the fascinating group of slime-moulds, which form a class of their own beside fungi, plants, animals etc. They are like encrusting fungi, but are mobile, capable of moving a metre overnight across logs and vegetation, changing colour as they mature, passing through several distinct stages. Our specimen, on a beech log in Peterley Wood 25-26 March was *Stemonitis flavogenita*.

Tony Marshall

Transformation of Boug's – 2006 to 2019

The place was a dump, full of rubbish and glass, covered in weeds and long spiky grass
The nettles and dock, so tall and so thick, but a well handled scythe soon did the trick.
The copse was so dense you couldn't see through, but the stream looked good ……..
when it ran steely blue.
The place needed help, some love and affection, willing hands, work and attention
The fence was down, the hedge worn thin, the rubbish just kept on 'blowing in'.

Then people came with tools and plans and started clearing up the land
They worked so hard this tireless crew, scything, raking and planting too.
Old folk came and sat on new benches watching the people repair the fences
They laughed when they saw on an Autumn day the group out spreading and stomping hay

The rabbits took fright but just for a while, soon getting used to using their guile
to harvest the plantings so soft and so green, and diving down holes so as not to be seen
Snakes arrived and set up their home, a fox and a hedgehog came there to roam
Birds found nest boxes and decided to stay, soon finding partners and starting to lay.

The hedges grew thick, the saplings took, the place acquired a 'cared for' look
The site soon had a noticeboard, showing the winning of a Queen's Award!
Events were held, the villagers came, to see for themselves Boug's was more than a name
Eco Warriors, their teachers too, helped with the work being done by the crew.

They still work there but not quite as much, its maintenance now with a much lighter touch
It's a pleasure to visit so come down and see, this small bit of meadow and its Jubilee tree
The future looks bright, lots of flowers and trees, more varied creatures and plenty of bees
Hibernacula built as weatherproof places for creatures to hide their tails and their faces.

It's amazing the change in just a few years, of hard work and sweat and fair share of tears
These folk became friends, a warm loyal band, nourished by flapjack ……..
*and **proud** of 'their land'.*

John Obee



Ecowarriors augment the task-force at Bougs

Boug's Meadow Photo Album



Sowing the meadow



Raking the hay



Preparing the boundary hedge…



……..and planting it!



Some of the workers



The Royal Oak is planted

Eco-Schools

The Eco-Schools programme has been around for 25 years, starting in response to the 1992 United Nations' Rio Earth Summit. It is now regarded as a global model for education concerning the environment, with around 18,000 registered schools in England and 1,010 ***Green Flag Schools*** encompassing 300,000 children. Locally it has tended to be mainly primary schools that are registered and have achieved awards. These include Great Missenden C of E Combined School and Little Kingshill Combined School. I work in a secondary school that is now considering registering and taking part in this programme.

There are many competing demands on schools to cover a wide a range of subjects in the available time and with limited resources, but it is still recognised that student awareness of nature and the environment is important and concerted efforts are being made to engage students and develop their ecological knowledge.

The Eco-Schools scheme has three awards: Bronze, Silver and Green Flag. These are achieved by following seven specified steps accompanied by a selection of other topics. The steps are:

- forming an eco-committee made up of like-minded students
- carrying out an environmental review of the school
- developing an action plan
- monitoring and subsequently evaluating the changes
- linking up with the curriculum
- informing and involving the whole school
- producing an Eco Code

There are now twelve topics to choose from upon which to base projects on. For the initial award a school must cover three topics, with renewals every two years covering five topics, two being changed on subsequent renewals. The school is then visited by an assessor who will evaluate the achievements made.

The topics are: biodiversity, climate change, energy, food, global citizenship, health & wellbeing, litter, marine & coast, school grounds, transport, waste and water. There are various campaigns like the "Litter Less Campaign" and "The Great Plant Hunt".

To help the Eco-Schools scheme, support and encouragement from the wider community is appreciated. It sounds like a worthwhile and interesting programme to be a part of, as it covers aspects that Prestwood Nature and its members are also concerned about and involved with locally. The students gain experience in useful life-skills, including research, team work, community involvement and responsibility. The intention is that by becoming actively engaged with the scheme, students become a part of the process to improve the environment for the future. Quoting US Senator Barbara Mikulski: "*Each one of us can make a difference. Together we make change.*"

Jenny Smith



Green Flag Award Little Kingshill Combined School

Climate Emergency - a Personal Statement

As I write, the UK Parliament has declared a Climate Emergency. It is calling on the government to reduce net carbon emissions to zero by 2050. A move in the right direction, perhaps, but not sufficient. The UN, based on the latest scientific findings, says that environmental catastrophe cannot be prevented unless emissions are reduced to zero by 2030. Not only is 2050 too late, but the UN target is world-wide - not every country is going to take this seriously (you all know who), so even if UK reaches a 2030 target, it will not, on its own, or in combination with some other countries who are ahead of us in this, be sufficient to avoid complete environmental breakdown.

We knew this was coming. We have been witnessing the breakdown already, over decades. The populations of almost all natural species are at an all-time low worldwide. We should not be misled by the local exceptions - the return of red kites will be of no use in the long run when they run out of food.

Humans have caused this to happen and only they can reverse it. But it is so late that the task now seems insuperable.

Although I have been for decades part of the environmental movement, trying to make people take these issues seriously, I realise I am more part of the problem than of its solution. I am sure most of you, like me, are overwhelmed by the magnitude of what we need to achieve, and despair that we can do enough.

There is a whole list of things that individuals are encouraged to do, but many have their own problems.

The keeping of cattle is a large contributor to carbon emissions, so we are told we should stop eating beef, or meat altogether. I have gradually reduced my meat intake over the years and hardly ever eat beef, but we need to think about the implications of eliminating meat completely. What are currently grass pastures (most of low value for biodiversity, but some properly managed ones very important indeed) would be turned into arable land to grow the extra vegetables we would need. Grasslands act as a sink for absorbing carbon and their loss will directly increase carbon in the atmosphere, so the move towards vegetarianism is no magic bullet. The loss of grazed grasslands would also destroy most of our best nature reserves. Low intensity mixed farming is the best compromise we have in terms of food production, so we should not jettison that for acres of soya beans and fast-growing energy crops with a natural diversity of zero. Vegetarianism will only take us so far, it is certainly not the answer, and some us cannot eat nuts anyway.

Aside from farms there is a large area of potentially useful grassland that can act as a last reserve for those native plants driven off cultivated land by modern chemicals. There are miles of roadsides that should be cut no more than annually in autumn so that they support flowers for pollinators and absorb excess carbon. An under-used extent of possible green space lies in our own back-yards. Gardens should be wildlife-friendly, a haven from poisons, and we should all grow meadows, not lawns. A network of such gardens would compensate for the wild land now so often lost from the countryside.

Trees are also important for carbon absorption, water conservation and supporting other forms of life. The most valuable are the most mature and it is more important to conserve those we have than to plant new trees, which will be similarly serviceable only in a hundred years' time.

Another major cause of pollution is all the cars we drive every day. The technology for universal electric cars is not yet far enough advanced, although that is a longer-term solution (bearing in mind that that depends on how we make our electricity!). Meanwhile we should walk and cycle as much as possible. I already do this, but I am fit and able, not everyone can get around without motor vehicles. And I still use a car, because sometimes I want to travel further or faster than I can do using my own resources, or because I have goods to carry (e.g. tools for a work-party!). I would use public transport much more if there was a better system, but there is no prospect of that at the moment, while taxis are no better than private cars and much too costly.

One way of restricting motor vehicle use is to purchase local produce where at all possible, and I am sure many of us are doing that to some extent already. Buying on-line saves on our own car journeys, but deliveries have their own carbon footprint that is no less than what we save. (An exception is local deliveries by, say, Wren Davis's electric milk-floats.)

Even worse than cars are aeroplanes. We really should not be using air travel. I hate it and would gladly give it up, were it not that it gets me to places I would not otherwise be able to visit, and we have grown use to a life-style that includes international travel. What would happen to the poorer countries of the world if we were not to visit them and not import their goods? Perhaps the problem is that these countries have bought into the Western way of life and its aspirations. Perhaps we all need to build self-sustaining economies not based on overseas trade; but this would involve a massive change in every economy in the world, most countries would not be able to make such a change and who wants to jettison the wide horizons and exciting possibilities opened up by modern life, even if we are living beyond our, and the world's, means? With petroleum reserves getting very low, however, the future of air travel would seem to be very short anyway, and we need to think now about

coping without these high-pollution vehicles. Balloons? Boats? So slow - we have got used to living too fast; perhaps cutting back would be good for our psyches as well as the environment.

The problem of plastics has been well-publicised recently and over the next few years I am sure most supermarkets and other shops will be changing to more environmentally-friendly packaging (or no packaging at all), as the best ones have already done. Meanwhile we need to keep the pressure on by not buying goods that come in unnecessary unrecyclable wrappings or by complaining about their use.

The other large contributor to carbon overload is the way we produce energy. We can reduce energy-use in various ways if we think about it, particularly by ensuring that house insulation is as good as it could be or by turning down the thermostat, although there is a limit to how far one can take this, especially for older people who need to keep warm. We can install solar panels, as many have done. Most important of all is to change to an energy supplier who uses 100% renewable sources, although this does not always mean that such sources are entirely without problems. Wind-farms make a lot of sense, but they have an environmental downside. Yet noisy unsightly windmills, with dangers of avian flying accidents, may be the price we have to pay for a greater good.

The problem with all the above is that we can all probably take some measures, but they are limited and we know that not all other people are going to be making the same sacrifices. Someone else will always take the seat we have vacated on the jumbo-jet.

Individual action is never going to be enough to get carbon emissions down to zero, even by 2100, let alone 2050, or the 2030 that is probably necessary. Major reductions can only be achieved through national (and, where possible, international) policies. We should only vote for a candidate (of whatever party) who promises to put the environment first above all other issues. There are also a lot of on-line petitions coming from environmental organisations that are having a definite effect on government and commercial policies, but to continue this they need to get enough of our signatures. In the end political action is the only way we are going to save the world if, indeed, it is saveable.

I visited London during the recent Climate Emergency protests. Major bridges were blocked to traffic. It was great to walk across them without the noise and petrol or diesel fumes. I felt that central London should be all like this - no traffic at all. It could be a far better life.

Tony Marshall



A carless city (Cardiff centre 2016)

Progress at the Big Mini-Cornfield

We sowed the seeds of 20 endangered and rare annual flowers last autumn. When we last checked on 13 May, there was as yet no sign of seven of these. Of the other 13, nine species were present but had yet to flower (two in bud and about to bloom), and four were already in full flower - shepherd's-needle (which already had the distinctive acicular fruits forming), field penny-cress (just one plant but with plenty of seed-pods), broad-fruited corn-salad (an amazing profusion of plants with hundreds of flowers) and wild pansy (also a very colourful display which has already lasted several weeks). We are particularly pleased with the shepherd's-needle and the broad-fruited corn-salad, both species that are close to extinction in the wild.

Of the seven that have so far not appeared, four are associated with chalk soils and may not germinate on our clays. The two other species associated with chalk have appeared in small quantity and may ultimately fail. It is early days, however, and there may be progress yet, especially as the chalk-loving species also need warm soil and it has probably been too cool for them so far. If the chalk species do ultimately fail we shall have to seek another site for them where they can do better. We have kept back some seed of almost all the species for a second sowing if necessary, although the intention is that our cornfield should be self-maintaining, with the plants seeding themselves for the next year.



Shepherd's Needle



Field pennycress



Wild Pansies in the cornfield



Field Pansy

Bird walk – April 7th

On a cool damp misty morning a group of 21 turned up at The Crown, Little Missenden for the annual PN Bird Walk. A fair scattering of members were to be seen among the assembled faces. Some newcomers had come in answer to advertisements, others by word of mouth. The shuffling feet and hunched shoulders suggested they were anxious to be on the move, so off we went toward the misty fields.

The quiet of the morning was soon replaced by the chatter of the crowd as they sought to introduce each other and generally assume the look of a keen bunch of birders. The few birds to be heard were very quiet by comparison with the notable exception of a large male turkey in an enclosure. With its magnificent plumage spread for inspection and its loud insistent call, it strutted its stuff in search of a mate. The cloud cover was very low as we stretched our legs along the path to the lake, so low that there seemed to be little hope of seeing any raptors. Our combined 42 eyes looked instead for any signs of life along the river bed and in the misty fields and hedge tops. Paul, our volunteer species counter was not exactly busy as he started to log the whispered sightings. It was soon clear that the winter migrants had left and the summer ones had yet to arrive! Never mind that's birding for you.

At the lake we were disappointed to see the state of the water surface which had a heavy covering of dirty looking brown scum. The ducks were getting into a filthy state as they swam through it. The absence of the normal Little Grebes suggested they had moved to cleaner water. There were a fair number of swans, geese and waterfowl around but nothing exciting. A short masterclass was given on the types of wagtail to be found in the UK and the bird book proved popular as we looked at species identification. 'Which is the Gadwall? Is that a Reed Bunting? How do you know which gull is which? By now the cloud had lifted somewhat and Red Kite and Kestrel put in an appearance. We turned and started to retrace our steps. A sparrowhawk provided another species for the list, soon to be followed by a buzzard carrying its breakfast. Things were looking up and so were we.

The birding was replaced by witnessing a ewe struggling to give birth in the neighbouring field. The turkey was still displaying hopefully as we ambled back to the pub where spotting a couple of finches raised Paul's total to 32. A very low bird count but with several new attendees and brightening weather the faces showed that it was definitely worth getting out of bed for!

John Obee

Red Kites – Soaring to Success



In February we were delighted to welcome Cathy Rose to talk to us about Red Kites. Over the past 30 years they have become such an integral part of our environment that it was good to hear about their introduction to the Chilterns and be reminded of some of the more interesting aspects of their life which we may either have forgotten or never known.

We heard that the first birds to be re-introduced came from Sweden. The kites from Wales could not be used as the colony there was very small. These birds spent a few months here and then they set off back to Sweden where they stayed; it turned out that the Nordic birds have very strong migratory tendencies and obviously preferred their original homeland. The next birds brought over from Spain were happy to stay and are the parents of those we see today.

Red Kites have a close affinity to people, are very curious and likely to come close to find out what we are doing. This can be great for us as it is magnificent to see these large raptors swoop close by and checking to see if we are worth their attention. It also means that many people like to put out food to attract the birds to their gardens.

Due partly to the extra food they get the population, has grown over the years and has come to a point where there is not enough prey in the country side. This can mean that parents cannot always catch enough to feed all their young so have smaller broods; only two or three youngsters fledging from a nest. Without artificial feeding the population might well stabilise at a number that the area could more easily support. There is a great difference between the attitude of red kites and common buzzards. Buzzards are very cautious and will keep away from people which means that the best sight we have of them is wheeling high in the sky or occasionally swooping down to catch an unfortunate rabbit.

Since the 16th century, kites have been observed coming close to dwellings. Shakespeare in 'A Winter's Tale' wrote "*when the kite builds, look to lesser linen*" suggesting that kites were stealing underwear from washing lines! They may be up to their old tricks again as soft toys and bits of material have been found in their nests - perhaps to keep the fledglings amused!

We had a great evening with Cathy and now look forward to welcoming Bridget Parslow in June to talk about Creatures of the Night, with perhaps a visit from Rose – the noctule bat.

Photo H Nixey Report Vanessa Rickett

PN Council Matters

Council Member Profile: Helen Matthews (Introducing the new Membership Secretary)



I am Chilterns born and bred. Among my ancestors are many agricultural labourers from the Ballinger and Great Missenden area, a blacksmith and a bodger. I was born in the 'workhouse' - the impressive brick and flint building in Whielden Street, Amersham designed by George Gilbert Scott. Fortunately, by that time it was no longer used for its original purpose but was part of Amersham Hospital. I grew up in Widmer End, went to school in Holmer Green and High Wycombe. After studying history at UCL, I spent 6 years working for Wycombe District Council as a committee administrator, though as my responsibilities also included making legal orders for the diversion of public footpaths, I did get out and about in the countryside from time to time. I still have council-issue wellies with the steel toecaps! I also got married and moved to Prestwood, where I have lived ever since. I later became a university administrator and have spent most of my subsequent career at UCL, where I am now Head of Academic Policy and Quality Assurance.

Along the way I studied part time for a PhD - my book on medieval bastards, based on my thesis, is published by Pen and Sword on 30 April. My other hobby is travel writing, and together with my husband Neil, have recently written a guidebook to the Chilterns and Thames Valley as part of Bradt Guides 'Slow Travel' series, published in February 2019. https://www.bradtguides.com/shop/new-and-forthcoming/the-chilterns-the-thames-valley.html. Tony Marshall very kindly contributed some 'Nature Notes', which are the highlight of the book. I first met Tony in the early 2000s when I became involved with the Hughenden and Missenden Conservation Group, from which Prestwood Nature was originally born. I have to confess that life (and the PhD) intervened and I have not been too active in Prestwood Nature since then but hope to do better in future.

Helen Matthews

PN Council and Contacts 2019

Council members 2018	**Phone**	**Email**	**Project**
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Karen van Oostrum	07910684339	karenjvano@outlook.com	Family walks
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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
Other Sites			
Angling Spring Wood		admin@prestwoodnature.org	Angling Spring Wood
Bougs Meadow		admin@prestwoodnature.org	Bougs Meadow

Dates for your Diary

May		
26 Sunday BBOWT Field Walk 9am -1pm Meet at Sprinters Leisure Centre	A long walk (7km) with steep paths and stiles to explore local landscapes Registration essential £5 donation	*Contact Tony Marshall* and/or *www.bbowt.org.uk/events/2019-05-26-exploring-chilterns-landscape*
June		
9 Sunday Walk 10am- 1pm Longdown Hill	Meet at National Trust Car Park on Longdown Hill. Walk to see wild flowers and hopefully orchids.	*Contact Tony Marshall for more info*
18 Tuesday 7:30-9:30pm Talk on Bats by Bridget Parslow	At Gt Kingshill Village Hall, Missenden Road, Great Kingshill HP15 6DW	*For more info contact chair@prestwoodnature.org*
22 Saturday Country Walk 2pm - 5pm led by Karen van Oostrum	Meet at 2pm outside Harrow pub on Warrendene Rd., Hughenden Valley to walk through woodland and fields around Piggott's Hill and beyond.	About 5 miles this walk is suitable for those of an active disposition. *Contact Karen van Oostrum*
July		
13 Saturday Summer Hedgerow Walk 2pm -5pm led by Karen van Oostrum	Meet outside Prestwood Village Hall Wycombe Road, HP16 0NZ A short walk over level ground and suitable for families with children	*Contact Karen van Oostrum for more info*
September		
20 Saturday Pollinator Friendly Garden 10am -12 noon	Work party General tidying and Autumn clearance	*Contact for more info* admin@prestwoodnature.org
28 Saturday 2pm-4pm Harvest of the Hedgerows walk	Meet outside Prestwood Village Hall, Wycombe Road, HP16 0NZ A short walk over level ground and suitable for families with children	*Contact Karen van Oostrum for more info*
October		
20 Sunday Fungus Foray 11am - 1pm	Meet at the farmyard at Hampden Bottom Farm. We shall look for special fungi in field margins associated with rock rose and explore ancient woodland at Warren Wood. In association with Chesham and District Natural History Society.	*Contact Tony Marshall for more info*
November		
15 Tuesday PN Talk 7:30-9:30 followed by AGM	Nature Conservation – Do we know what we are doing? Are we doing enough? A talk by Mick Jones from BBOWT at Prestwood Village Hall HP16 0NZ	*Contact Vanessa Rickett for more info*

