Prestwood Nature
SUMMER NEWS 2026

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

Issue 75 2 September 2026

Working together with nature



Prestwood Nature's Secretary writes…

What an extraordinary summer it has been! I know torrential rain is not normally welcome on a bank holiday weekend, but I can't be the only Prestwood Nature member who was relieved to see it. Several shrubs in my garden are looking a lot better already and the grass is showing the first signs of greening up again. The butterflies seem to have liked the heat. I have recorded many more, and a greater variety, in my *Wider Countryside Butterfly Survey* square this summer than I did last year. Painted Ladies have been abundant, and I have seen several Clouded Yellows locally, including one on the Prestwood Nature transect. Both of these species migrate here from Europe and the suggestion is that the extreme heat there this summer has driven more to fly further north.

Plans for how local volunteers can contribute to the *Mending the Misbourne* project have been taking shape over the summer. Getting better data about the winterbourne part of the river is a priority and we would like to build up a group of trained citizen science volunteers to undertake flow- and riverfly-monitoring. Training organised by the Chiltern Chalk Streams project for flow monitoring is on 10th September (half day) and for riverfly monitoring on 17th October (full day). Please get in touch (admin@prestwoodnature.org) if you are interested in doing either of these as we have a few spaces reserved on both courses.

Frances Rawle

Contents

Summer Botany, p2

Launch Walk For New Misbourne Volunteer Group, p.

PN Dates For Your Diary, p.

Summer Flora in Missenden Abbey Grounds, p.

The PFG, p

Summer in Boug's Meadow, p.

Orchard Day 2026, p.

Why Do Flies Blow Bubbles? p.

Winners and Losers at the PLNR, p.

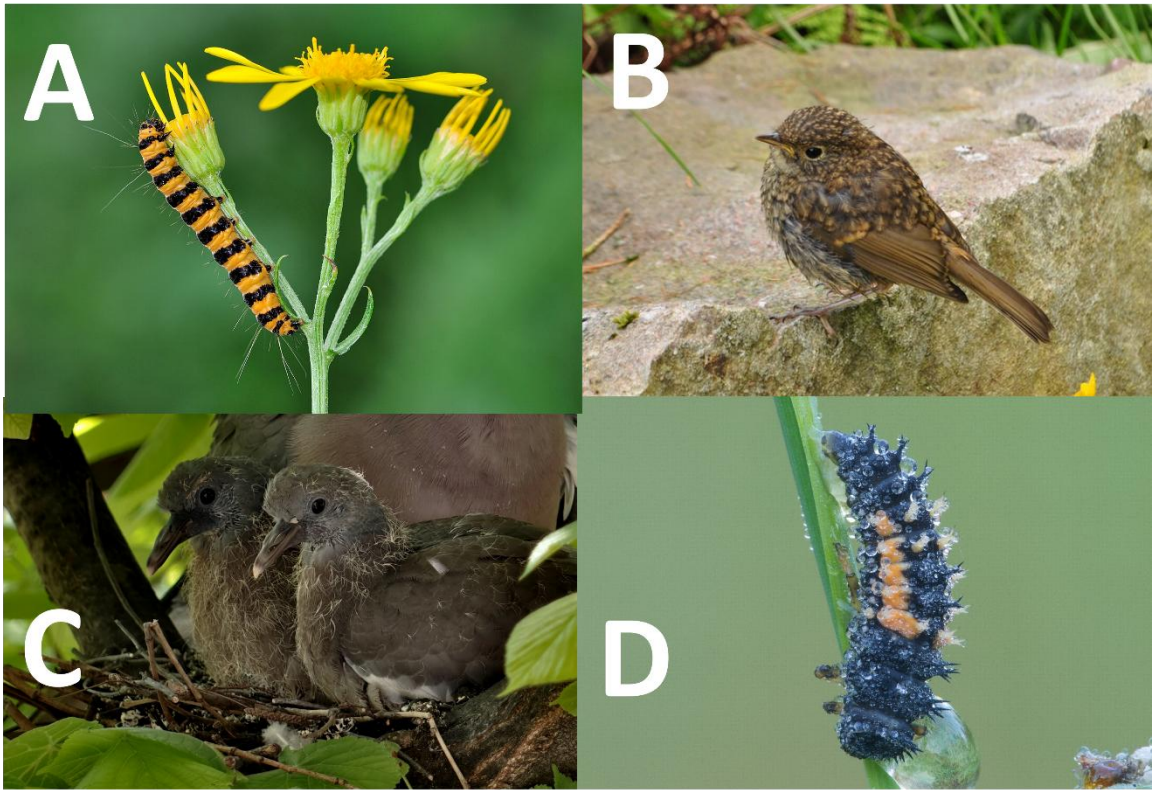
Summer Thoughts of Dogs, p.

Wildfires: A Growing Challenge, p.

What do you know about the Stones of Prestwood? p.

Letter to the Editor: No Mo' May

Summer Quick Quiz Answers, p.



Summer Quick Quiz

1. Whose babies are these? (Can you answer for all: A-D?)
2. Spot the odd out? (Hint: Imagine all in later life.)

Summer Botany

What a summer it has been! June and July were exceptionally hot, and July extraordinarily dry. Although it may now seem a distant memory, the first half of June was actually rather wet. This allowed many plants to flower profusely, but the persistent heat and drought that followed have dramatically condensed their usual timings. Many species are already 'over', contributing to the unusually dry and parched appearance of the landscape.

The Chilterns' iconic beech trees have not escaped the effects of the weather. Beech is particularly sensitive to drought, which can damage its water-conducting tissues and lead to loss of foliage and subsequent canopy decline. This summer we have also seen instances of large limbs suddenly falling from apparently healthy trees. Many beeches are carrying a conspicuous crop of developing fruits (mast), adding



Limb failure of a beech tree (David Humphries via arbtalk)

another demand on trees already coping with drought; some also fruited heavily last year. Whether this contributes to limb failure is uncertain, however. The phenomenon known as 'summer limb drop' is well recognised in mature beech and other trees, particularly during hot, dry weather, but exactly why it happens remains poorly understood.

Karen van Oostrum

Launch Walk for New Misbourne Volunteer Group





Top: A briefing from Trish (P Heath) Bottom: The Misbourne flowed through Boug's in April (A Griffiths)

On Friday 21 August a band of local River Misbourne enthusiasts gathered in Boug's Meadow in Great Missenden to investigate the upper winterbourne section of the river and find out more about invasive non-native species (INNS). Led by Trish Mallett and Karen van Oostrum, walkers meandered upstream as far as the source of the River, Mobwell Pond.

It was hard to remember the river in full flow earlier in the year, with the pond so dry but we learnt a lot about the route taken by the Misbourne above and below ground and the way its appearance and disappearance is linked to the water table within our chalk aquifer. It was interesting to note the pond-loving plants still in evidence in the 'newt pond' (upstream from Boug's) despite the drought and the way that willows have marched on Mobwell pond over the last few years. Happily there is no evidence of in INNS in this upper section of the winterbourne, meaning a humble Hogweed was used to illustrate the *Giant*-kind we all need to look out for!

The *next* winterbourne walk… organised by Great Missenden Village Association and Prestwood Nature, will take place on Friday 2nd October. Join Trish Mallet and Karen van Oostrum to explore the River Misbourne from Great Missenden to Banks Pond (opposite the Chiltern Hospital). We'll see how the river flows through the village in culverts and learn the history of Warren Water and Banks Pond and how humans have engineered and used the river in the past. Along the way we'll look around at nature, the plants and the trees that are part of the Winterbourne ecosystem. The Great Missenden Village Association and Prestwood Nature are sponsoring these FREE walks as an introduction to Chiltern National Landscape's Mending the Misbourne project. All

welcome, young and not so young on 2 October. Just turn up. Meet at 10.00am at Buryfield carpark, outside the Memorial Hall. Wear comfortable shoes and bring a drink. *AG & FM*

Prestwood Nature Dates for Your Diary

Sunday 20 September: 10:00-13:00 Boug's Meadow volunteer work party, Link Road car park, Great Missenden

Sunday 27 September: 10-12:30 Pollinator-Friendly Garden work party, Kiln Common, Greenlands Lane, Prestwood

Sunday 27 September: 14:00-16:00 Autumn Botany walk led by Karen van Oostrum. Famillies welcome. Free but do register via PN's EventBrite.

Friday 2 October: 10:00-13:00 Walk: Explore the Winterbourne River Misbourne downstream from Buryfield car park, meet outside the Memorial Hall in Great Missenden

Saturday 3 October: 12:00-16:00 Orchard Day, The Community Orchard, Kiln Common, Greenlands Lane, Prestwood

Sunday 11 October: 10:00-13:00 Boug's Meadow volunteer work party, Link Road car park, Great Missenden

Sunday 25 October: 10-12:30 Pollinator-Friendly Garden work party, Kiln Common, Greenlands Lane, Prestwood

Thursday 5 November: 19:00-21:30 Prestwood Nature's AGM with talk by Steph Horn 'Mending the Misbourne', Oldham Hall, 71 The Square, Great Missenden HP16 0BA – *please note the new venue this year!*

Sunday 8 November: 10-13:00 Boug's Meadow volunteer work party, Link Road car park, Great Missenden



Investigating plant-life in the newt pond, Great Missenden in August (PH)

Sunday 22 November: 10-12:30 Pollinator-Friendly Garden work party, Kiln Common, Greenlands Lane, Prestwood

Summer Flora in Missenden Abbey grounds

In Great Missenden, we're fortunate to have the beautiful Abbey grounds to walk through. This year the Misbourne dried up in May. The upper and lower lakes remained whilst the riverbed itself returned to damp marsh, still supporting a wide variety of plant life.

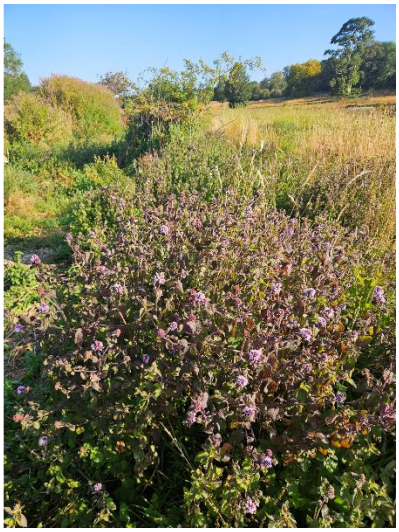




From left: Yarrow, Curled Dock and Ragwort (N Hardy)

The surrounding fields develop a patchwork of flora through the year – by July you can see large patches of Yarrow with their clusters of white, cream (and even slightly pink) flowers, mixed with the brown, dried-out flowers of Curled Dock. The distinctive yellow Ragwort can be found throughout – farmers do not like it as it is toxic to livestock, though in a wild setting it supports a lot of native insects including Cinnabar Moth caterpillars.





River Misbourne in May (A Griffiths), Great Willowherb and Water Mint (N Hardy)

In the bed of the Misbourne, the marsh is ideal for Great Willowherb with its pink or purple flowers rising above the grasses. You will probably smell as well as see the Water Mint along the river bed, as well as around Bank's Pond at the southern end of the parkland. *Nick Hardy*

Update on the Pollinator-friendly Garden

One plant in the pollinator-friendly garden that is conspicuously enjoying this extraordinary summer is fennel. Towering over the other plants in the beds, it is still full of life and colour. A native of the Mediterranean, it is well adapted to prolonged heat and drought, while its large, fleshy taproot can reach moisture unavailable to many shallower-rooted plants. The rain in early June would have provided a well-timed recharge before the heat returned. As much of the surrounding vegetation has dried and finished flowering early, fennel has continued to thrive, its great yellow umbels particularly striking this year.



Hoverfly on fennel (K van Oostrum)

And those umbels are buzzing with life. Each consists of many tiny flowers, turning a single fennel plant into a large feeding platform. Unlike flowers that hide their nectar at the bottom of a long tube, fennel's small, open flowers offer nectar and pollen that are readily accessible, even to insects without specialised mouthparts. Consequently, it attracts a remarkably broad range of visitors: hoverflies, solitary bees, honeybees, small beetles, flies and numerous wasps, including tiny parasitoid wasps that are easily overlooked. These last visitors are particularly useful in a wildlife garden: the adults feed at the flowers, while their larvae may prey on or parasitise other insects. *Karen van Oostrum*

Summer in Boug's Meadow

Our annual open day at the Meadow, held this year on Sunday 5th July, was the focus of much volunteer activity in the weeks before it and the day itself was great fun, with giant bees and enhanced signage attracting punters from the market on the High Street that day, and lots of local 'No Mow-ers' turning up for tips about how to perfect their home-grown wildflower meadow. The array of different types of wildflowers established in the Meadow is impressive and the butterflies agree. Since July, the team's focus has been on containing thistles ahead of their seed dispersal. The now dry river bed and banks proved an ideal environment for Creeping Thistle this year – a plant aptly named as it threatened to creep right the way across the site.



Creeping thistle (A Griffiths)

A ‘scratch crew’, if you’ll forgive the pun, came together in an August work party to brush cut, scythe, rake and pull up thistles, all in aid of maintaining local biodiversity. Quite a job!



Boug's Meadow volunteers removing Creeping Thistle (P Heath)

A Griffiths

Orchard Day at Kiln Common’s Community Orchard: 3 October 2026

Come along to Prestwood Nature's Orchard Day to learn more about apples and other fruit in the local area on Saturday 3 October, from 12-4pm. Enjoy fresh apple juice made by the Midshires Orchard Group using apples from the Community Orchard, or bring along your own apples for identification and processing if you have a tree in your garden.



Join us for juice-making again this October!



(Images: J Appleby)

See how the Orchard has responded to the recent heatwaves and drought, and enjoy some craft activities for all ages. Free entry, no booking required. On-street parking nearby is

limited, so please walk or cycle if you can. The Community Orchard, Kiln Common may be accessed from Greenlands Lane, in Prestwood. The What 3 words location is: corn.petition.endearing

James Appleby

Why do flies blow bubbles?



Scathoplaga stercoria (A Evans)

I took a photo of a yellow dung fly and on closer examination found it was blowing a bubble! Apparently, a number of flies exhibit this 'bubbling' behaviour.

Flies move a droplet of fluid out and then back into their buccopharyngeal cavity a number of times. The droplet contains liquids from ingested food as well as enzymes from the salivary gland and is thought to play a role in food processing. Scientists have also demonstrated, using infrared imaging, that bubbling behaviour serves as a mechanism to lower body temperature by means of evaporative cooling. As the fluid moves out, evaporation occurs which lowers the fluid's temperature, which when reingested lowers the body temperature of the fly.

Isn't nature incredible! *Anne Evans*

Other Local Groups Involved in Nature Conservation:



PN's Caroline Greenwood bee-ing seen on National Meadow's Day (C Tyler)

- *Berkshire Buckinghamshire & Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust (BBOWT) www.bbowt.org.uk*
- *Bucks Owl and Raptor Group (BORG) https://www.giveahoot.org.uk/*
- *Chilterns Conservation Board www.chilterns.org.uk*
- *Field Studies Council Amersham at Mop End www.field-studies-council.org/locations/amersham/*
- *Friends of Priestfield Arboretum https://priestfieldarboretum.org.uk/*
- *Leather Lane Conservation Group – Preserving and Protecting Leather Lane https://saveleatherlane-wp.org.uk/*
- Speen Environmental Action Group https://www.speenbucks.org.uk/seag/
- Wild Amersham https://sustainableamersham.org/nature-and-biodiversity/

A Season of Winners and Losers at the Prestwood Local Nature Reserve

There was an impressive display of Cowslips at Prestwood Local Nature Reserve this year. But a few warm and dry weeks later, the Oxeye Daisies were noticeably shorter than normal. This trend continued, with many plants being stunted and flowering earlier than usual, or in reduced numbers. Annuals such as Basil Thyme and Chiltern Gentian either failed to germinate or dried out before being able to flower.

Brambles seemed to thrive, sending shoots out across the paths, and needing to be cut back regularly. We have a constant battle to try and stop Dogwood from taking over the grassland areas. It too seemed unaffected, but recently even it has started to wilt. The importance of blocks of taller scrub that can cast shade has been highlighted over the last few years. There are still a few plants flowering in the shade when their counterparts in exposed locations have long gone over. I have not seen the results of Prestwood Nature's butterfly transect, but my impression is that there have been good numbers of butterflies. I hope that their food plants remained palatable for long enough for the caterpillars to fully develop. At the time of writing, we are awaiting the emergence of ivy mining bees in the short-turf area down the slope from the Apple trees.



A mason bee, Osmia bicolour *camouflaging a clutch in a snail shell and blades of grass (Bien-Zenker via Wikipedia CC SA-BY)*

In April, I saw what appeared to be a piece of dry grass fly by, at a few inches above the ground! A closer look showed that a small black and ginger bee was carrying the stem – a mason bee. The females lay eggs in empty snail shells. She deposits balls of pollen and nectar within the shell, then lays an egg before creating a partition using chewed up leaves, then repeats the process 3 or 4 more times. The mouth of the shell is closed with a mix of chewed leaves, soil and small stones. When the nest is completed, she covers the shell with dry grass stems. She can be seen searching for dry grass, straddling it, and attempting to fly back to the snail shell. Sometimes the grass stem is still attached. After an attempt or two to take off, she will try elsewhere. If the stem is too long, she may be able to get airborne but cannot control her flight. Having found the right piece of grass she will fly back to the nest and position the grass over the shell. This must be repeated many times.

As always, I must express my thanks to the visitors and local residents who help clear litter from the reserve. I will leave you to guess what I would like to say to those who drop the litter. Please do contact me if you would like to know more about Prestwood Local Nature Reserve via email: highbeeches1@yahoo.co.uk *Philip Pratt*



Hugo investigating a wildflower on the PN summer walk

Summer Thoughts of Dogs

"Hugo", my human said one day, "What do you say to a nice ramble through the woods and fields this afternoon? You never know, you might learn something." And before I knew it, I was signed up to Karen Van Oostrum's summer wildflower walk. Apparently, it's a regular thing, three times a year – same route, different season where a willing group (primarily two-legged) turn out each time to take in the charms of Prestwood through the prism of the wildflower. Wasn't sure it was going to be my sort of thing, but it didn't look like I was getting much of a say in it. Off we strolled to the designated corner of Kiln Common to meet our friendly local botanist and her loyal band of followers. I have to admit my ears pricked up when Karen, straight from the off, started talking about the greater plantain and pineapple weed found all around us on the common. Now we're talking. There's going to be food on this walk! Yes, there was a definite smell of pineapple, but disappointingly, nothing more than that.







Pineapple weed, Greater plantain and a pineapple! *(From left: Anne Burgess and Rasbak CC BY-SA, Fir0002 CC BY-NC)*

Turns out that though they may sound delicious, these two plants are the greatest of friends, often found in the same spot, right below your feet rather than anywhere in the kitchen. Shame. Nevertheless, it was another warm day, and all were happy to follow Karen into Pepperbox Woods which a haven for those of us with furry winter coats. It was also where things started to look up on the snack front. Who knew that Pepperbox was a veritable fruit bowl. Through the summer, the keen-eyed horticulturist might harvest wild blackberries, raspberries, currants – black *and* red, and even gooseberries. As long as you don't mind the nettles and thorns intent on keeping this soft nose out of their produce. Ouch! As for the cherry trees that surround us all over Prestwood, they would be so much more promising if only I could persuade my human to wrap some pastry around them.

I'll admit my interest began to wane when Karen moved on to the ferns carpeting the woods, that is until she started mentioning the charms of the humble custard cream. Just as I was about to show enthusiasm for the subject, it became clear it was their appearance she was more taken with than their taste for some reason. Did you know that the unique pattern found on every biscuit is thanks to a peculiar Victorian obsession with ferns! Pteridomania was a craze that swept the nation that was so popular, it leaves its indelible mark on our tea times to this day. See the similarity? Me neither, though I can't say I take too much notice when I'm snaffling them quietly from the kitchen.

On we went with my nose on high alert for more interesting finds. Yellow pimpernel, Birdsfoot Trefoil, Yellow Rattle - all very charming but just as I was giving up hope of ever finding something really worth sniffing, we stumbled on the Hedge Woundwort. Ugh, what a stink! Far, far worse than the Wild Iris Feditisima which, according to Karen, is actually better known as the stinking iris. Which is odd because, in my view, it was this plant that produced the best smell of the day ….. roast beef. Now we're talking.

Karen's next wildflower foray is on 27 September. Perhaps we'll come across the roast potatoes next time. A dog can dream.

'Overheard by' Lynda Marlow

Wildfires: A Growing Global, National and Local Challenge



A wildfire in Holyrood Park, Edinburgh May 2026 (Pretzelles CC SA-BY)

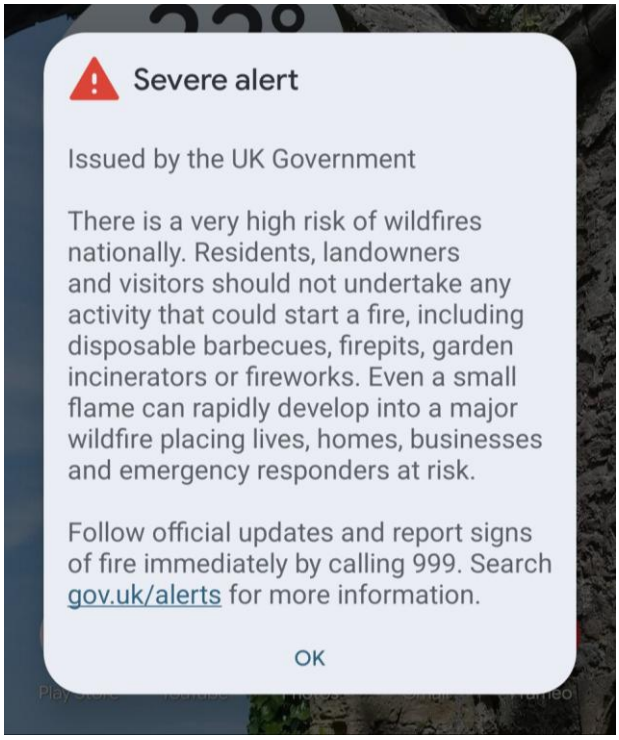
Wildfires are becoming an increasingly recognised threat in the UK. A wildfire is any uncontrolled vegetation fire serious enough to require an emergency response – typically covering at least a hectare (around two rugby pitches), involving flames over 1.5 metres, or requiring fire crews for six hours or more. They can burn grassland, moorland, woodland and peat, and can start and spread remarkably quickly.

Although many UK wildfires are small and short-lived, the risk is increasing. Climate change is making summers hotter and drier, creating ideal conditions for fire. After several consecutive days without rain, plants and soils lose moisture faster than they can

recover, turning grasses, bracken, gorse and scrub into highly flammable fuel. In 2025, Scotland experienced the UK's first ever 'mega fire', burning over 10,000 hectares in the Highlands. Although the pattern varies between regions, globally, scientists project wildfire risk will rise by 14% by 2030, 30% by 2050 and 50% by 2100.

Most UK wildfires are caused by human activity, whether accidental or deliberate. Discarded cigarettes, litter, disposable barbecues, campfires, fireworks and sparks from machinery can all ignite dry vegetation. During prolonged heatwaves, even small ignition sources can trigger significant fires. On 14 August 2026, the UK Government issued its first-ever emergency alert relating to wild fire risk. It was sent to people in England and Wales, urging residents and visitors to avoid any activity that could start a fire as at the time the risk of such events was very high.

Buckinghamshire reflects the national trend. Between 1 July and 11 August, Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes Fire & Rescue Service attended 412 outdoor fires - a 196% increase compared with the previous 3-year average. Locally, firefighters tackled a fast-spreading field fire off Perks Lane in April, and in August a large fire of woodland-waste at Mop End required multiple units, water carriers and overnight monitoring.



National alert, 14 August 2026 (via Wiki UK Gov.)

So, how to reduce future risk? Alongside encouraging responsible behaviour in our rural areas, one of the most effective long-term prevention strategies is restoring moisture-retaining habitats, such as wetlands, ponds, damp woodland edges and healthy riparian zones. These areas naturally hold water, slow the drying of surrounding vegetation and act as buffers that reduce the speed at which fires can spread. Conservation agencies and environmental organisations also recommend creating firebreaks, managing high-risk vegetation (cutting or thinning dry grasses, bracken, scrub and dead material to reduce fuel), and improving access routes for fire crews so they can reach incidents more quickly.

As UK summers continue to warm with considerable spells of dry weather, these measures need to be implemented to help slow fire spread and build the long-term resilience or our wild sites. *Caroline Greenwood*

What Do You Know About the Stones of Prestwood?

Prestwood, of course, lies on the chalk rock of the Chilterns. But travelling about Prestwood you may have noticed a number of large, sandy coloured rocks and boulders – for example along Wycombe Road, in Nairdwood Lane and sitting on the corner of the Common. These are Sarsen stones, the exact same type of rock that makes up the large stones of Stonehenge. So what are they doing here in Prestwood?

Well let's go back to a warm period in the Earth's history about 55 million years ago, after the extinction of the dinosaurs. At this time a thick layer of sand and gravel was deposited on top of the chalk, later rising above sea level. A tropical jungle of palms covered this soil and the rains dissolved minerals from the soil.

The dissolved silica (quartz) cemented patches of the sand into a tough layer of sandstone called a 'silcrete'. This layer was extremely resistant to erosion, but was eventually broken up into boulders – a physical process that took millions of year. As the sands were washed away the silcrete boulders remained on the surface of the ground and these are known as Sarsens.

Because Sarsens are nearly pure quartz, they are extremely tough and durable. You do sometimes see holes in sarsens though – these are actually the fossil traces of palm roots.



Sarsen Stone (E Griffiths)

On Salisbury Plain the Sarsens were large and numerous enough to for people to use them to build stone circles, as they lay in boulder fields on the land surface.

Our local Sarsens were more elusive: they were usually found buried in the soil and clay capping the chalk. Our ancestors did, however, recognise this hard-wearing stone as a useful resource. Farmers and later quarrymen found boulders just under the surface by probing with iron rods called 'snipers'. They dug out the shallowest boulders and exposed more buried below them, often producing large pits, the largest measuring up to 20m deep and more than 30m across. I haven't yet identified any of these in Prestwood, but there must be some: this stone very early on became known as 'Denner Hill Stone'.

The stones were split using a set of specialist tools, starting with metal wedges hit by 28lb sledge hammers. Short, broad ‘slicing’ chisels held in a twisted withy were struck with a small ‘tracing’ hammer to split blocks into the final products. To make fine quality blocks for important buildings the sides were dressed by carefully hammering away excess stone from the surface.

The smooth, hard stone is an attractive pale grey colour. Blocks set in the ground for pathways often take on an orangey hue as a result of the weathering of iron oxides in the stone – Denner Hill Stone was the traditional material for cottage pathways in Prestwood.

In fact, you can see Denner Hill Stone in use across Prestwood and southern Bucks. Holy Trinity Church, Prestwood has dressed blocks of this stone and a beautiful example is Denner Hill Farmhouse. If you inspect its garden wall at close quarters you will see the blocks of Sarsen stone.

Given the hard-wearing nature of the stone it was in demand for kerb stones or ‘setts’, stones placed along pavement edges and blocks carefully positioned at the bottom of walls and gate pillars to stop vehicles damaging a building. Quite a lot of these can still be spotted in Aylesbury, for example lining the pavement outside the Bucks Museum. And the Market Square in Aylesbury still shows Sarsen paving - William Smith of Denner Hill ‘pitched’ Market Street with sarsen setts in 1869.

Anyway, see how many of the natural boulders you can find and also see how many buildings you can spot this stone used in. I have always wondered, since we have the stones, whether there is a the lost site of a stone circle somewhere in these hills. What do you think?

Ed Griffiths



Holy Trinity Church in Prestwood features Sarsens stones (S Burchell via Wikipedia CC BY-SA)

A Letter to the Editor: No Mo' May

As you mentioned in your Spring newsletter, people and authorities all across the country are heeding the call to leave more of our grasslands, including verges, uncut, to allow flowers to

flourish and support insect pollinators. At the beginning of May we counted 87 plants in flower along one Prestwood verge and under the bordering hedge. The burgeoning of flowers had just begun, with three species of buttercup, lady's smock, woodruff, red and white dead-nettles, dove's-foot cranesbill, sweet vernal grass, meadow foxtail, hedge garlic, cow parsley, daisies, ground ivy, bush vetch, germander speedwell. It was a riot of colour - red, blue, purple, yellow, white – just ordinary flowers but they brightened up our semi-urban surroundings, a reminder that we lived in a landscape well-known for its variety of blossoms.



A colourful local verge in May but then ...? (A Griffiths)

But it was May, and so out came the mowers and the strimmers; No Mow May became *No More May*. It was upsetting to see the devastation. All colour gone, replaced by mats of brown rotting cuttings, even reaching deep under the hedges to ensure there was nowhere for the hedgehogs to travel in safety. No insects anymore, no wings or petals for the sunlight to shine from. I could have cried. Out of a population of 8,000 in our local area it appears that there are precious few who care about the environment. Some people really love to mow. Despite coming to live in a desirable region of woods and meadows, many people hate trees (they might fall on them) and wildflowers (untidy weeds). Nature is something that many fear – it is not under their control, it might take over, it might get in the way. They may watch David Attenborough, and they may appreciate what he says but he is talking about nature somewhere else, in another country, in wild places, and they do not want any of that around

them. And the biggest environmental vandal of all is the County Council, who paid for all this devastation. Somehow, they find the money for this, when they cannot find anything to support improvements to the environment. So no more May for me, no more June either, or July. The lane I walk almost every day is a bleak desert, hardly even a reminder of what could have been.

What is even more of a loss is that this verge was part of a national scientific project where we were recording flowering plants every week to obtain information on phenology, when each species flowers and for how long. People would sometimes stop and ask what we were doing – some understood and shared their own experiences, but others were obviously sceptical, suspicious of our motives, not understanding how anyone could value all these weeds.

Tony Marshall

Summer Quick Quiz Answers

1. A: Caterpillar of a Cinnabar Moth (Quartl CC BY-SA 3.0)
   B: Fledgling robin (Ashley Dace CC BY-SA 2.0)
   C: Wood pigeon squab (Krigore CC BY-SA 4.0)
   D: Ladybird larva (Marcel Zurreck CC BY-SA)

2. Wood pigeon will be the odd one out as all of the others will feature bright red colouring, as adults – simple as that!

Prestwood Nature's *Autumn News 2026…*

…will be published in November 2026. If you would like to write an article or share an image to be included in this newsletter, the deadline is 30th October 2026. Email the Editor, Alice Griffiths, using the email address newsletter@prestwoodnature.org

Ps. Don't forget to join our Prestwood Nature Facebook Group to stay in touch and share your own nature finds.

All views expressed in this newsletter are those of individual contributors and do not necessarily represent those of Prestwood Nature or its trustees.



Missenden Abbey Park, July 2026