Prestwood Nature
AUTUMN NEWS 2026

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

Issue 76, 10 November 2026

Working together with nature



Chair's Chat

Hello, and welcome to my first 'Chair's Chat', having taken on the role at our AGM last week. Many of you will already know me, but for those who don't, here's a little about me. I would probably describe myself as having a life-long love of the natural world, with a particular interest in botany. I moved to Prestwood in 2012, joined Prestwood Nature in 2013, began leading seasonal botany walks in 2018, and soon afterwards began to help look after our Pollinator-Friendly Garden. I've been a member of the council since 2021.

As I begin my first term as Chair, I'd like to start by thanking everyone who supports Prestwood Nature in whatever way they can – as trustees, volunteers or wider members. As a small local charity, we depend enormously on the goodwill, enthusiasm and time of our supporters. It's worth reflecting on just how much our local work matters. Our primary aim is to ***enhance the quality of the natural environment through the involvement of local people***, and we work hard to put this into practice. Looking after our wilder areas, protecting habitats, restoring and maintaining sites and raising awareness of the importance of giving wildlife a chance to thrive - these are all more important than ever.

Looking ahead, there's plenty still to do. I'm delighted to be taking on the role and look forward to working with you, to build on what's already been achieved, welcoming new members and continuing to make a positive difference to the places and wildlife around our villages. I hope we can have another enjoyable and productive year.

Karen van Oostrum

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Autumn Quick Quiz

1. Can you name fungi A-D all snapped in HP16?
2. Spot the odd one out?

AGM talk, 5 November: Mending the Misbourne

Steph Horn, Catchment Project Manager with the Chilterns National Landscape, gave a fascinating and thought-provoking presentation at the AGM on Thursday 5 November. She began by explaining what makes chalk streams so special. Fed by springs from the chalk aquifer, they are characterised by 'gin-clear', mineral-rich water that remains cool throughout the year. They support lush vegetation, including the iconic water crowfoot, and are exceptionally good for wildlife. Chalk streams are globally rare habitats, with only around 300 known worldwide and approximately 85% of them are found in England. They provide habitat for species including brown trout, water voles, kingfishers and banded demoiselles.

The Chilterns contain nine chalk streams; among them our local river, the Misbourne. Rising at Mobwell in Great Missenden, the Misbourne flows south before joining the River Colne near Denham. The river faces significant challenges, including historic modifications to the channel and the installation of weirs, which have disrupted natural river processes and restricted fish movement. Pollution enters the catchment from several sources, including road run-off and sewage infrastructure, while water abstraction has reduced river flows. The Misbourne is unusual because sections of the river naturally dry out during periods of low flow, including the upper winterbourne section (through Great Missenden) but also perched stretches of the river south of Amersham. This characteristic makes the Misbourne particularly vulnerable to environmental pressures. As a result, the river's current ecological state is currently classed as 'poor'.

To address these issues, the Chilterns Chalk Streams Project has launched *Mending the Misbourne* (MtM), an ambitious 5-year programme designed to restore the health of the river and reconnect people with this globally important habitat. The plan was developed through workshops held in 2023 and 2024 that brought together representatives from local community groups, conservation organisations, councils, water companies and the Environment Agency. The resulting evidence-based catchment plan helped secure a million pounds of funding from the HS2 Additional Projects Fund and a further quarter of a million pounds from the Environment Agency.

Scientific evidence sits at the heart of the initiative. Potential projects are assessed through detailed baseline surveys, data collection and feasibility studies to ensure resources are directed towards actions that will have the greatest impact. A wide range of projects are already underway, including river restoration works, monitoring of water quality and flows, community engagement and initiatives to support wildlife-friendly farming. Steph described the development of farmer clusters, where neighbouring farmers work together to improve habitats across the landscape. Measures include hedge planting and laying, dew pond creation, willow pollarding along river corridors, rainwater harvesting and the provision of winter bird seed for farmland birds such as yellowhammers, which are on the UK's Red List following a 61% decline since the 1960s.





Chalk stream-dwelling wildlife, from left: water vole, water crowfoot and banded demoiselle (CC-BY-2.0: from left, Peter G Trimming, Peter Beard and Jamie McMillan)

The project is also tackling invasive non-native plant species (INNS), which can overwhelm native vegetation and damage river habitats – and Steph gave a shout out to Trish Mallett's work in the upper catchment which has given the MtM team a great headstart on INNS. Volunteers play a crucial role in controlling species such as Himalayan balsam, while new biological control methods are showing promise against floating pennywort, which can regenerate from tiny fragments and grow extremely rapidly. A trial using a weevil, whose adults and larvae both feed on the plant, has shown encouraging results. River restoration work carried out by Affinity Water at Quarrendon has returned an artificially straightened section of the Misbourne to a more natural, meandering form, with a further phase planned.

Citizen science is a particularly important part of the programme. In the past 6 months, half a dozen new volunteer survey groups have been established and 32 people trained in techniques including river-fly monitoring, brown trout redd surveys (a redd is an underwater

nest where the female lays her eggs), water vole surveys, flow monitoring and water quality assessment. In fact, it was citizen scientists who drew the team's attention to a 'fish kill' event in the River Misbourne over the summer. Trout were affected by low oxygen levels due to the high temperature of the water, which reached 28°C! Following this report, both the MtM project and the Environment Agency installed automated temperature monitoring equipment in the area. Anyone interested in getting involved in contributing to the citizen science effort can find out more at the Citizen Science Evening being held at Chalfont St Giles Memorial Hall on 26 November 2026 at 18:30.

Steph's presentation highlighted both the scale of the challenges facing the Misbourne and the breadth of work being undertaken to address them.

Prestwood Nature's work with the GMVA and MtM – via the locl Misbourne Winterbourne Action Group (MWAG) – means our volunteers will be involved in this exciting river renewal project; and we were encouraged to hear of the scale of the wider community action to protect and restore one of the Chilterns', indeed the world's, rarest and most precious habitats. You can find out more about Mending the Misbourne project using this link.



Boug's Meadow will be a MtM flow monitoring site on the Misbourne, though not in November 2026! (C Greenwood)

Caroline Greenwood

Autumn Foraging: Sweet Chestnuts

The sweet chestnut (*Castanea sativa*) is common locally and foraging for nuts is a traditional autumn activity. Technically these are non-native, although since they were apparently introduced by the Romans, they are considered an 'honorary native' today. The trees are distinctive with their wide trunks and long, glossy leaves which turn golden-brown this time of year.





Photos taken 30 October 2026: Sweet Chestnut tree in the Abbey Grounds, Great Missenden; husks and nuts on the ground underneath (one of which has been enjoyed already, most likely by a mouse or vole)

Sweet chestnuts are of course edible, whereas horse chestnuts (conkers) are not. The outer husk of the sweet chestnut is spiky, and gloves are recommended if you are gathering them – you have to work for your food! There's no need to pick them from the tree, instead, gather the larger nuts from the ground below. Around here there tend to be plenty of nuts, with most of them too small to be worth collecting, so it is fine to forage for a few whilst leaving plenty for wildlife. A variety of small mammals including mice, voles and squirrels will eat or collect the nuts (with some of their 'forgotten' stashes germinating, helping the trees to spread), and deer and larger birds will eat them too. For us humans, you can roast them in the fire or the oven, or cook a variety of sweet and savoury dishes including stuffings, soups and cakes.

Words and images by Nick Hardy

It's Been a Humming-bird Hawk-moth Year!

This year has been a bumper year for one of my favourite moths, the Humming-bird Hawk-moth (*Macroglossum stellatarum*). They are summer migrants hailing from around the Mediterranean and across North Africa and have appeared in large numbers in the UK this year due to the hot summer and strong southerly winds. It is such a distinctive moth in flight. It hovers rapidly beside flowers beating its wings in a figure of eight at around 80 times per second, creating a humming sound and showing its orange hindwings and black and white chequered body. However, at rest it is unassuming in appearance and can easily blend into the background (see image on next page).



Left: Curling proboscis. Right: Rapid wing movement (Anne Evans)

It has an incredibly long proboscis, roughly the same length as the moth's body, which it keeps tightly coiled up when it is not feeding. The proboscis acts like a long straw, allowing the moth to hover in front of deep tubular flowers and drink nectar without having to land.

The larvae feed on plants such as Lady's Bedstraw, Hedge Bedstraw, Wild Madder and Red Valerian. Some of these insects do now breed in the UK and there is evidence that some of them successfully overwinter here as adults in sheltered spots. It is likely that it will become a resident species if current weather trends continue.

Anne Evans

What the People Need to Know: the *People's Emergency Briefing, at The Misbourne School*



The People's Emergency Briefing isn't the first film to be made about climate change, and it won't be the last. However, the 50-minute *Googlebox*-style introduction to current climate science presented by naturalist and national treasure Chris Packham is an important and engaging new addition to the genre. Part of a wider campaign to reach the UK public with up-to-date science about the climate crisis, the film features other celebrities including *Dragon's Den* investor Deborah Meaden and Comedian Jennifer Saunders alongside members of the public reacting to updates about the risks posed by our changing climate.

The knock-on effects of rising temperatures and changing rainfall patterns are explored with regard to a wide range of issues, including food security, health, national security and, of course, the impacts on nature. Some of the content of the film is pretty hard-hitting, as suggested by its 16+ age rating, but there are rays of hope, in particular, in the presentation from Tessa Khan an expert on the energy transition. The founders of the National Emergency Briefing organisation are seeking a COVID-style televised public broadcast about the climate and nature crisis, introduced by the prime minister, and there will be a parliamentary debate about this on 16 November given the swell of opinion the organisers have demonstrated with a massive online petition.



Impacts of the changing climate: Humming-bird hawk-moth at rest in HP16 (C. Priestley)

The Misbourne School should be applauded for screening this film. This community event on 14 October event was attended by representatives of the school's students and teachers, a cohort of PN members and other interested locals, who discussed the implications of the film after it had been shown and the need to involve local politicians.

Upcoming screenings at Holy Trinity Church, Prestwood **(Friday 13 November, at 11:00** – book tickets here) and at Cornerstone, Little Kingshill Baptist Church **(Saturday 14 November, at 19:00** – tickets here) offer further opportunities to engage with this defining issue of our time.

Videos of the full briefings provided to MPs (in November 2025) can be access via the National Emergency Briefing website and YouTube channel.

Alice Griffiths

Dates for Your Diary from Prestwood Nature (and a few more)



Friday 13 November 11-12:30 **People's Emergency Briefing**, Holy Trinity Church, Prestwood – book your free ticket here

Saturday 14 November 19-21:00 **People's Emergency Briefing**, Cornerstone, Little Kingshill Baptist Church – go online here to book

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

Thursday 26 November 2026 at 18:30 **Citizen Science Evening (Mending the Misbourne)** being held by Chiltern Conservation Board, at Chalfont St Giles Memorial Hall – book here

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

Thursday 31-Sunday 3 January **New Year Plant Hunt** by the Botanical Society of Britain & Ireland (BSBI) - go online to find out more here

Sunday January 17 13:00-15:00 **Winter Botany Walk**, from Full Moon, Hare Lane, Little Kingshill – book a place on the walk via EventBrite here

Sunday 24 January 10-12:30 **Pollinator-Friendly Garden work party**, Kiln Common, Greenlands Lane, Prestwood

Friday 29-Sunday 31 January **RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch** – for more information go online to register here

Sunday 14 February 10-13:00 **Boug's Meadow volunteer work party**, Link Road car park, Great Missenden



October's Autumn Botany walk led by Karen (Lynda Marlow)

Sunday 28 February 10-12:30 **Pollinator-Friendly Garden work party**, Kiln Common, Greenlands Lane, Prestwood

Sunday 14 March 10-13:00 **Boug's Meadow volunteer work party**, Link Road car park, Great Missenden

Sunday 28 March 10-12:30 **Pollinator-Friendly Garden work party**, Kiln Common, Greenlands Lane, Prestwood

The Orchard in October

The good news is … that we were able to go ahead with the Orchard Day at Kiln Common on 3 October this year, after having to cancel due to bad weather last year. Once again, we were joined by the Mid-Shires Orchard Group (MSOG), who brought along an electric apple macerator and a juicer, as well as their display of heritage apple varieties.




Prestwood's Community Orchard in October (Alice Griffiths)

The less good news … was that our orchard, along with many in the area, had a real shortage of quality apples this year. This was partly due to this being an 'off' year for apples with fewer, smaller fruit after last year's bumper crop (not to mention the drought), and partly due to very high numbers of Codling Moth larvae which damaged a lot of fruit. However, we were able to gather enough from the orchard and a few member's gardens, supplemented by some brought along by MSOG, to produce a batch of fresh apple juice on site. The MSOG team dealt with many questions about heritage apples and orchard management, and enquiries from people who had brought along examples of their unknown apple varieties from their gardens for help with identification. Meanwhile the Prestwood Nature gazebo had displays, activities for children and greetings cards and cakes for sale, and Karen van Oostrum led a tour of the orchard. Although we did not have a big crowd on the day, we had a steady stream of visitors, including many dog walkers passing by as well as Prestwood Nature members living local to the site. Although primarily a day about the Orchard, it was also a good opportunity to introduce people to the Pollinator Friendly Garden and start conversations about gardening to support pollinators.

Many thanks to MSOG, to the Appleby family for supporting the event with access to electricity and water, to Prestwood Methodist Church for providing the tables, and to Sarah and Julian Peter who supplied very welcome cups of tea and coffee for the volunteers.

James Appleby & Frances Rawle

October Work Party in Holy Trinity's Churchyard, Prestwood

On 10 October, Prestwood Nature volunteers gathered at Holy Trinity Church in Prestwood to help with their annual clean-up of their old churchyard. We, with the Church volunteers, spent the morning cutting back brambles and raking up arisings following major strimming work the Church had organised a few days before. The old churchyard is left to grow wild through the summer to encourage flowers and pollinators, so each autumn it needs work. It was a jolly atmosphere, and the church provided some well-earned teas and cake.

The delights of this churchyard are described on the burial grounds conservation website *Caring for God's Acre*. Here's an extract:

Holy Trinity Churchyard, Prestwood, is a rare survival of the original acid grass heath that was prevalent on the extensive old Chiltern commons that were almost entirely destroyed when enclosed in the middle of the 19th century. Plants survive here that are no longer known anywhere else in the region. In addition, the combination of no fertilisers, regular mowing and removal of cuttings, has created the ideal conditions for what is known as a 'waxcap grassland', where a special suite of fungi that are largely very rare can flourish - mostly waxcaps, but also clubs and pinkgills. As soon as she started raking, PN Secretary Frances Rawle uncovered a slow worm and she later asked Tony Marshall if he knew there were slow worms there. Yes, he rapidly replied, the site has a known established population of these creatures that are actually leg-less lizards.



(Left) The grave of Thomas Edward Humphreys, who died in 1902; (Right) close up of the shield marking the loss of Edward Thomas in 1918 (Tony Marlow)

One of the old graves I was attending to was completely overgrown with grass and thick moss. As I was clearing it, I discovered a shield-shaped stone marker lying flat on top of it. The grave was of Thomas Edward Humphreys who died in 1902, but the stone shield carried the name of Edward Thomas Humphreys – possibly his son? The plaque stated that Edward Thomas died from wounds received in action in WWI on 18 April 1918, aged 42 years. It is probably a very long time since that shield was last visible.

As I am a volunteer for the Commonwealth War Grave Commission, I asked them if they had any records of the death and they responded by saying that Edward Thomas Humphreys is buried or commemorated at Hamburg (war casualty details: 902405 I CWCG). The stone shield at Holy Trinity is therefore a memorial stone and not the site of his grave, to give it context.I passed this information onto the Rector at Holy Trinity, Michelle Fotherby, and she said she will include Humphrey's name on the list of the fallen to be read out at their Act of Remembrance. There is at least one CWCG war grave in the 'new' churchyard at Holy Trinity and we are hoping to have a CWCG sign eventually fixed to the churchyard entrance. By the end of the morning a considerable amount of clearing up work had been completed and we all look forward to seeing the benefits next year.

Tony Marlow

Winterbourne Walk: Part II



"Who buri(field)-ed that river?"

This image shows members of Prestwood Nature and the GMVA at the start of a walk tracing the route of the River Misbourne in Great Missenden, finishing in the Missenden Abbey Park. Beginning at Buryfield (geddit?) the image clearly shows the parched soil that marks the route of the Misbourne underground. It was an event to learn about the river and its intermittent nature, and was jointly organised by Prestwood Nature and the Great Missenden Village Association in support of the Mending the Misbourne (MtM) project.

Image and puns by Paul Heath

Autumn Update from Boug's Meadow









Our November work party involved hedge maintenance (looking after both living and 'dead hedges'), coppicing the hazel and pruning one of the willow trees - thank you to all of our volunteers who have shown up each month to help us look after this special site for the community in 2026 (Alice Griffiths)

Often Overlooked: Moss

Mosses can easily be overlooked as small green plants, but they play an important ecological role. As pioneering plants, they colonise bare surfaces, and help reduce erosion. They absorb carbon and help to regulate the cycling of nutrients. Over time they build up and trap organic matter, helping to form soils which may allow other plants to get established. They can absorb and hold moisture to slow the flow of water after rain. They provide shelter and food for a variety of invertebrates and are used by some birds and mammals as nesting materials. If

looked at closely, they are surprisingly attractive and varied, having different leaf shapes and growth forms. Some mosses spread across the ground, while others form neat little cushions. The capsules they produce (see below) may be yellow or red when mature. In the right conditions they can produce a vibrant green carpet in woodlands. Opinions vary about the presence of mosses in lawns.

Mosses can be found growing on the branches and trunks of trees, on rocks, walls and gravestones, tarmac, metal and even on discarded car tyres. They can survive in these conditions because of their ability to absorb moisture and nutrients through their leaves. During dry periods they may shrivel up and look rather dead but can respond remarkably quickly when water becomes available. The movement of the leaves as they straighten and unfurl can be seen. The photographs below were taken less than three minutes apart, the second one after the plant had been misted with water.



A moss plant after a period of dry weather; the same plant less than three minutes after been misted with water (Philp Pratt)

The ancestors of mosses are believed to have evolved over 450 million years ago and species today still preserve characteristics that give an insight into the origin of land plants. They lack strengthened internal vessels that allow flowering plants to grow taller and to transport water and nutrients within the plant. Mosses also need surface water to be able to reproduce.

It is thought that there are about 25,000 species of moss worldwide, with about 700 in Britain. A greater number of species exist in the wetter western parts of the country, but a good number can be found here in the Chilterns in grassland, woodland and in urban areas.

As part of their life cycle, plants have two alternating generations, which look quite different from each other. One of the two generations will be dominant, in terms of its size and the length of time that it persists. The gametophyte generation produces the male and female reproductive cells, which then develop into the sporophyte generation. The sporophyte produces spores which, under the right conditions, germinate as the next gametophyte generation. With mosses, it is possible to see both generations at the same time. The green plant growing on a wall or in a lawn is the gametophyte generation. The sporophyte, which comprises a capsule and stem, grows attached to the gametophyte and may be dependent on it for water and nutrients. The capsule splits open to release the spores once they have

matured. Spores are generally single cells and far less advanced than seeds. The sporophyte then withers and dies, leaving the gametophyte to continue growing.

With flowering plants, which evolved far more recently than mosses, it is the sporophyte generation that we are familiar with, the gametophyte being tiny and unseen, only existing within developing flower buds. Flowering plants have evolved sophisticated methods of pollination, and have developed seeds and mechanisms for dispersing them, while mosses have remained relatively unchanged throughout their long history.

With the wetter weather, and leaves falling from the trees, Autumn through to Spring is a good time to have a look for mosses.

Philip Pratt



A moss with the green leaves of the gametophyte generation and the stem and capsule of the sporophyte generation (Philip Pratt)

Craneflies: Misunderstood Monsters of Autumn?

Having looked around the local secondary schools with my daughter, one school was quickly crossed off the shortlist. Not owing to the exam results, the fact that a favourite subject wasn't taught or even the quality of the food in the cafeteria. This particular school was ruled out because our open morning visit coincided with the annual mass emergence of craneflies and the end wall of one of the buildings was completely covered in a moving mass of spindly legs and wings.

Woe betides anyone who leaves a window open with the curtains open and the lights on after dark in our house during crane fly season! If a cranefly is found in the house, you will hear screams and insistent demands to "Put it outside – now!" While they're not my favourite animal, I am very happy to catch the poor creature in a glass and hastily release it outside (hoping that I don't let in ten more in the process).

Perhaps it's anthropomorphism on my part, knowing that adult craneflies have only a short time in which to fulfil their duties: mate, lay eggs and die. But their frantic scrambling around ceilings, sometimes despite having lost multiple legs, does suggest a certain desperation.

During their short adult lives, craneflies are a valuable food source for a wide range of animals including hedgehogs, foxes, bats, starlings, spiders and dragonflies. Craneflies themselves rarely feed as adults, but when they do, they feed on flower nectar. The larval stage is another story, however. Leatherjackets, the tough, greyish brown larvae of craneflies, spend up to 11 months feasting on plant stems and roots, sometimes leaving bare patches of lawn, making

them unpopular with gardeners. The RHS advises treating troublesome leatherjackets with nematodes, a form of natural pest control that is compatible with organic gardening.



Much misunderstood? Craneflies are a feature of autumn, often trapped inside our homes (C Greenwood)

As well as their long, gangly legs, craneflies can also be recognised by their prominent halteres, drumstick-like structures that stick out underneath each of their two wings, one on either side of the body. These are modified hind wings that act as gyroscopes, helping the insect maintain its balance in flight. (Would it be impolite, having observed their sometimes-clumsy flight, to suggest that their halteres could do with an upgrade?)

Although unmistakeable as a group, differentiating individual species can be very difficult and identification often requires microscopic examination of the genitalia. There is, however, an easier way to distinguish the sexes: female craneflies have a pointed 'tail' (actually an ovipositor used to pierce the soil and deposit their eggs) while males have square or forked tails.

UK cranefly species belong to several different families, which vary in their appearance, habitat and habit. Limoniidae – the short-palped craneflies – are the largest group, with around 227 species in the UK. Most are fairly small and can be difficult to identify, although some groups, such as Limonia, are more distinctive. Tipulidae – the long-palped craneflies – include about 87 UK species. They occur in a wide variety of habitats, and their larvae have equally varied requirements, living and feeding among dead wood, mosses, fungi and plant roots. Many are relatively large, including some of the craneflies we are most likely to notice. One of these is *Tipula paludosa*, a very common UK species and the likely target of my daughter's screams. Pediciidae – the hairy-eyed craneflies – comprise around 20 UK species. Most are associated with wet habitats, and their larvae live in or around water. Cylindrotomidae are a much smaller family, with just four UK species. Two are associated with woodland and two with bogs and fens. Their caterpillar-like larvae feed on mosses, while the adults have particularly long, slender bodies. The UK Cranefly Recording Scheme also covers some related cranefly-like insects, including fold-wing craneflies and winter gnats.

So, craneflies are a surprisingly diverse group, an important food source and, according to *Wikipedia*, known as 'Jenny long legs' in Scotland. They are also apparently a useful way of narrowing down the choice of secondary schools. Love them or hate them, they are an unmistakeable sign of autumn in the UK.

Find out more: Information in this article was drawn from resources produced by the UK Cranefly Recording Scheme, wildlifetrusts.org, kentwildlifetrust.org.uk and nhm.ac.uk. If this has inspired you to take a closer look at craneflies, this Recording Scheme is an excellent place to start.

Caroline Greenwood

New Chair of Prestwood Nature Elected

Karen van Oostrum was elected Chair of Prestwood Nature at the AGM on 5 November 2026. Karen has been a trustee of Prestwood Nature since 2021 and a volunteer since 2013. Dr Oostrum is a botanist and highly experienced educator – we are lucky to have her step up to this new challenge.



Karen van Oostrum has taken over as Chair of Prestwood Nature (KvO)

And the Queen's Award goes to… Mandy Kentish

…in recognition of the significant contribution **Mandy** has made, and continues to make, to the work of Prestwood Nature.

'She is a devoted and committed volunteer at Boug's Meadow, attending as many work parties as she can, always keen to get on with the hardest work. Mandy willingly lends a hand with postering for our events, continues to get involved with new initiatives such as the Mending the Misbourne project, and is always keen to find out more about our local wildlife' said Karen at the AGM on 5 November. Thank you, Mandy, for being such an all-round champion of our cause!



Queen's Award winner, Mandy Kentish (N Hardy)

Hedge laid at Sheepwash Pond





If you are passing the Sheepwash nature site, stop and admire the beautifully laid hedge. A good Sunday's work from the Chiltern Society's Rough around the Hedges team, including several Prestwood Nature volunteers (Images and words: Paul Heath)

Autumn Quick Quiz Answers

1. A: Bolete, possibly Penny Bun (A Griffiths), B: Amythest Deceiver (Z Cleary), C: Beechwood Sickener (A Griffiths), D: Yellow Fan (C Veysey)

2. Yellow Fan fungi are rare in the UK and are typically found in coniferous woodland. Fungi A-C fruit in the leaf litter of deciduous woodland, such as beech woods in the Chilterns.

Other Local Groups Involved in Nature Conservation:

- *Berkshire Buckinghamshire & Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust (BBOWT) www.bbowt.org.uk*
- *Bucks Owl and Raptor Group (BORG) https://www.giveahoot.org.uk/*
- *Chesham Wildlife (Facebook Group) https://www.facebook.com/groups/454628248045299*
- *Chiltern Chalk Streams Project https://www.chilternstreams.org/*
- *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/



Prestwood Nature's *Winter News 2027…*

…will be published in February 2026. If you would like to write an article or share an image to be included in this newsletter, the deadline is 28 January 2027. Email the Editor, Alice Griffiths,

Don't forget Prestwood Nature now has a Facebook Group which you can join using this link.

Early morning light in woods close to Little Kingshill (A Griffiths)

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

Prestwood Nature

Working together with Nature