



Hay Bridge News

The Newsletter of the Hay Bridge Nature Reserve Society. Registered Charity No. 501384

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SPRING 2018

Warden's Report



It seems to have been a very long, hard winter, although I think we have got off rather lightly compared with many places! Now, the occasional hint of spring, especially on Mothers' Day when the honey bees were busy on the snowdrops; the Curlew and Lapwing were calling over the Mosses and the sunshine had some warmth in it – a promise of better things to come, hopefully (although I doubt winter has finished with us just yet!).

The Goldfinches, Siskins and Redpolls all disappeared during the 'Beast from the East' and are only just beginning to return, but there was still plenty of food being consumed by the large Tit population, Great, Blue, Coal, Marsh and Long-tailed (unusually the latter coming to the peanut feeders regularly during the very cold spell). We have also had very good, frequent sightings of Bullfinch (2 male, 2 female) down on the track eating the Ash keys.

Goldcrest, Nuthatch and Treecreepers are sighted with great regularity and we have a lot of Robins and Great Spotted Woodpeckers, it was obviously a very good breeding season for them last year, with large numbers surviving the winter so far.

We regularly have three Little Egrets on Newlands Fen and along the runner, and as mentioned earlier, it is a delight to welcome back the Curlew and Lapwing to the Mosses, indicative that they are going to breed there again this summer – we hope!

The deer are doing well, both Red and Roe. We have a lovely Roe Buck around, with an impressive new growth of antlers in velvet.

An oddity this winter – two stoats, one the usual brown/white and one in ermine – we are very obviously borderline!

The wild daffodils are just starting to show yellow now, the days are lengthening, the dawn chorus is 'pepping up', the Osprey platform has been inspected and cleaned up a bit, the steps to the carpark have been refurbished and we now await the emergence and arrival of our spring and summer flora and fauna.....do come and visit.....this is such an invigorating time of year.....

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

We are actively looking to recruit a Membership Secretary who can assist the Committee by maintaining the membership list and contact details, sending out membership packs to new members and keeping the membership informed and aware of any membership fees due or changes to the membership criteria. The Committee have already agreed that the role would be enabled using a membership software programme and would want to actively review potential programmes with the Membership Secretary once appointed.

Please contact Robin Cope, Committee Chairman, if you are interested in learning more. Robin can be contacted on robincope@waitrose.com.

WILDLIFE WATCH COMES TO HAY BRIDGE

On Saturday 21st April, local Wildlife Watch group, the Ulverston Owls, will be running an event for children and families at Hay Bridge Nature Reserve. The event is open to all so Hay Bridge members are very welcome to take part.

The group is affiliated to Cumbria Wildlife Trust and meets several times a year to explore local habitats and wildlife and have a fun time in the great outdoors. It is aimed at 5-11 year olds but older/younger siblings are very welcome to take part too.

Spring will be in full flow for the Hay Bridge event and activities have been chosen to enjoy it! There will be a gentle walk in the woods in the morning from 10-12, stopping to look at Spring flowers and for other exploring games. A campfire will be lit at midday, which we will gather around to eat our packed lunches (unless it's raining in which case we'll eat indoors). In the afternoon there will be pond dipping, from 1-3pm.

The cost is £5 per child, or £12.50 for families of 3 children or more. You can choose to come for half a day or the whole day (same cost applies either way). Places are limited so please get in touch with Wildlife Watch leader Amy Boud to book at info@playful-nature.co.uk or call 07938878268. Let us know what time you plan to join us (10am, midday, or 1pm) and how much of the day you would like to take part in.

2018 AGM

Will Members please note that the 2018 AGM will be held on **Saturday 28th April from 2.30pm** at the Study Centre, Low Hay Bridge. The AGM Notice to Members is included with this newsletter. The AGM provides an opportunity for Members to hear a full report from our Chairman and from the JSCF. In addition there will be a presentation by, a raffle in aid of the Society and a proper tea with cakes and sandwiches for all to enjoy! So please do plan to come along, to join in and to meet fellow Members and your Committee.



HAY BRIDGE BIRD RACE AND WALK 2018

It was billed as a 'fun race' to start the year at Hay Bridge and 14 members gathered to have a go and meet the challenge. The aim was to identify as many birds as possible in just over an hour and it was a deadly serious competition for some, especially with prizes in the offing! The winning team were Neil and Tom Parkinson who spotted 32 different types of bird.

Everyone was pleased to get back to the Study Centre to be greeted by Trustee Jane Chaloner and cauldrons of her delicious, homemade soup. Most welcome on what was quite a wet and chilly day. Chris Berry encouraged all the teams to share what they had seen and heard as they raced around the Reserve and it was fascinating to discover the wide variety of birds that had been spotted and that were active so early in the year.

After hot soup and prize giving, Chris led a short walk with his usual blend of knowledge and enthusiasm to entertain and enlighten us all.

THE RESERVE WEBSITE

PLEASE visit the Reserve website for information about events, past newsletters, AGM minutes and a lot more. You can also use the contact us section to get in touch via email. As well as these features there is a great deal of information about the Reserve, the Society and JSCF. www.haybridgenaturereserve.org



Walter Lloyd 1924 – 2018 Walter took over as Chairman of HBNRS in 1993 at a time when things had become quite difficult for the Society and it nearly folded. He reinvigorated the committee and threw himself into several projects at Hay Bridge, including the Woodland Weekends which many will remember. Walter was a committed environmentalist, a lover of nature and of low impact living. He was also one of those amazing personalities that will always be recalled with a mixture of fondness and admiration. His motto was "die young but leave it as late as you can"! And he certainly lived up to this. The Society was represented at his funeral, as were so many of his friends and family.

Trevor Lloyd 1930 – 2018 Trevor (who was not related to Walter) was one of the first members of the Society when it was established by Tissie Fooks in the late 1960's. He was also a long term and loyal member of the Society Committee. He dutifully attended many meetings, bringing a quiet but sensitive interest in the natural environment to many discussions. His commitment and devotion are to be lauded.

'ROAMIN' IN THE GLOAMIN', 5PM SATURDAY 10 MARCH 2018

Or "If you go down to the Woods Tonight!"



One of Chris Berry's more unusual assignments, a potential mission impossible! Let's do something different for the Spring Walk this year and start the walk at 5pm he said, little realising what that would entail. So torches at the ready a hardy group of all ages accompanied Chris into the Hay Bridge woods as dusk closed in and the rain began to fall. A very cheerful gang of walkers heard owls out hunting and robins and mistlethrush making sure of their respective patches. They saw early daffodils and late snowdrops and, to round the evening off, helped several frogs and toads cross the road to the safety of White Moss. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves, although the supply of Kit Kats may have partly helped the evening go so well

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

April 28th – HBNRS AGM from 2.30pm. Guest speaker, raffle and a proper tea all feature as well as presentations from the Society Chairman and an opportunity to meet the Committee.

May 19th – BBQ lunch at the Study Centre from 12.30pm. Presentation by Sir Martin Holdgate of the JSCF, drinks and refreshments included. Numbers limited so please register early.

July 7th – Hay Bridge in Summer. A guided walk, timing and details will be emailed and be on the website. Led by Chris Berry.

August 4th – Bat Evening. One of our most popular events. A chance to meet rescue bats and use the bat detectors to find out who is flying at night. Led by Gail Armstrong.

August 18th – The Rusland Show. Our local and very traditional summer show. The Society will have a stand at the show and welcomes all visitors.

September 8th – Fungal Foray. Don't miss the chance to find out what can and can't be eaten! Led by Helen Speed.

Rut Walks: Dates are still to be confirmed but will probably be in late in October or early November, dependent on the start of the Rut. Please advise Nick Chaloner (n.jc1@btinternet.com or 015395 34943) if you would like to be included on the mailing list for the 2018 Rut Walks.