



## Erewash Valley Trail makes way for local Nature Reserves

New nature reserves at Attenborough Junction (Erewash Fields) and at Nottingham Road have been created alongside the Erewash Valley Trail at Long Eaton. The sites link Attenborough Nature Reserve to Barton Pool and Trent Meadows and also complement the Toton Fields Nature Reserve. Broxtowe and Erewash Borough Council and Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Wildlife Trust have collaborated to establish wildlife corridors which make Long Eaton a wildlife hotspot. For wildlife photos see also

<http://www.erewashvalleywildlife.org.uk/>



River crowfoot

*Ranunculus fluiatilis*

## Mystery of Forbes Name Revealed

Research by David Gell has revealed that Forbes Hole was possibly named by EJ Lowe FRS, the author of 'The Conchology of Nottinghamshire'. Forbes Hole may have been a favourite site for the mollusc surveys Lowe carried out in the mid nineteenth century. Professor Forbes was a famous contemporary and friend of Lowe. Forbes Hole was excavated around 1839 for gravel to build the embankment for the new railway. David was surprised to find the 1856 book is available as a facsimile reprint from Amazon and has been inspired to carry out further research. More about Forbes Hole on page 4.



Professor Forbes

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### Records Wanted

- Publication of the new Derbyshire Mammal Atlas is underway. Derbyshire Mammal Group welcome further mammal records.
- The peregrines of Derby Cathedral star in a new DVD on national sale.
- Wildlife emergency number call 08456 058058

## OPAL

Between March and December 40,000 people around England seized the opportunity to take part in the first national survey of hedgerows and associated wildlife. Scientists at Imperial College and the Natural History Museum will analyse the data received from

participants to give a clear picture of where old hedges are across the country and their value for wildlife. LENS members attended training and received free project packs.



David Gell at training day

# U3A Plant Study Group

In November David Pinney led the first outdoor meeting of the new Long Eaton And District U3A Plant Study Group at Stoney Clouds. There were ten in the group and they stayed out for a bit over 2 hours. It was a lovely sunny morning to look at trees, mostly without leaves. Some people in the group were completely new to trees while others knew a bit. Future day time meetings are planned for Stoney Clouds and other local sites such as St Chad's Water.

The group are keen for other people to join in their outings. Contact David Pinney 0115 877 9669 for details of future outings.

U3A membership is not related to a specific age but to a period in one's life (the third age) after the second age of full-time employment and parental responsibility. Anybody in their third age can join U3A and this includes people who are working part time.

There is no lower age for membership. Long Eaton U3A has 17 study groups and membership costs £18 per year.

Contact Ann Bennett  
0115 972 3448



Tree at Bakewell Show

# Greensqueeze

Greensqueeze calls for protection for the Erewash countryside- our own little national park as many call it. It is an area threatened by commercial pressures- the Stanton project being just the latest but certainly not the last. Saint Gobain is expected to submit a formal planning application to Erewash Borough Council in April or May 2011. The scale of the development has now been revised downwards to around 2,000 houses. This could bring an extra 2,000 jobs to the area. The problem as always with this site is that of access. Nearby towns and villages must prepare themselves for a considerable amount of additional traffic, £8million has been allocated to make improvements to the existing road network. It now seems unlikely that there will be any new road built but there is a distinct possibility of a freight rail link to the Stanton site.



Red deer photographed by Bernard Woodhouse near the Ironworks site

# Friends of Elvaston Castle



Snowdrops

There is currently no change in the Elvaston Castle saga but no one must assume that the threat of a sell-out has disappeared because things have gone quiet again. The long overdue work presently being carried out to the Golden Gates boundary wall, Moorish Temple and an Essential Repairs Report for DCC has been enabled by an English Heritage Grant. In September, Highgate Sanctuary's Managing Director stated that it

would be two years after the company's planning application before the 'hotel' would be open and the English Heritage grant money could go towards repairing the Castle. As a result of this, our campaign is still very much alive and kicking. We need everyone's support otherwise, the Estate as we all know and love it may disappear completely. Please enter 'Friends of Elvaston' into UTube and take a look at the three videos.

**LIST OF ORGANISMS (EXCL. HIGHER PLANTS) FOUND IN THE BIOLOGY POND  
(PINNEY POND) AT TRENT COLLEGE**

Found in September 2010

(as determined by Alan Heath and David Pinney 27/09/2010)

Rectangular pond 6.20 x 3.60m built in 2004

**Non-vascular Plants and Monera**

Phylum	Class/Order	Common name	Genus	Species (if known)
Cyanophyta (Myxophyceae)		Blue-green alga (bacteria)	Anabaena	-
Chlorophyta		Filamentous green alga	Spirogyra	-
		Filamentous green alga	Mougeotia	-

**Protoctista**

Sarcomastigophora		Amoeba	Pelomyxa	palustris
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**Animals**

Platyhelminthes		Flatworm	Dugesia	lugubris
		Flatworm	Polycelis	nigra
Nematoda		Roundworm	Unknown	spp.
Rotifera		Rotifer	Unknown	sp.
Annelida		Leech	Unknown	sp.
Mollusca		Pea Mussel	Pisidium	sp.
		Giant Ramshorn Snail	Planorbis	corneus
		Great Pondsnail	Lymnaea	stagnalis
Arthropoda/Crustacea	Order Cladocera	Water Flea	Daphnia	pulex
	Order Cladocera	Water Flea	Eurycerus	sp.
	Order Ostracoda	Seed Shrimp	Cypris	sp.
	Order Harpacticoidea	Free-living Copepod	Canthocamptus	sp.
	Order Harpacticoidea	Free-living Copepod	Unknown	sp.
	Order Isopoda	Water Slater or Hoglouse	Asellus	sp.
Arthropoda/Insecta	Order Hemiptera	Greater Water Boatman	Notonecta	sp.
	Order Ephemeroptera	Mayfly nymph	Cloeon	sp.
	Order Odonata	Damselfly nymph	Coenagrion	sp.
	Order Diptera	Phantom larva	Chaoboros	sp.
	Order Coleoptera	Great Diving Beetle	Dytiscus	marginalis
	Order Coleoptera	Beetle	Unknown	sp.
Chordata	Class Amphibia	Smooth Newt tadpole	Triturus	vulgaris

## FRIENDS OF FORBES HOLE –ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2010

**OFFICERS:** CHAIRMAN/SECRETARY Alan Heath  
TREASURER Marc Lunn

**FINANCES:** No receipts or expenses this year.

**WORK AT THE SITE:** Routine work has continued mainly by Groundwork Derby and Derbyshire and Friends of Forbes Hole.

**EVENTS:** 2009 December 3 – Cutting back vegetation at the main pond.  
2010 February 5 - Cutting back vegetation at the main pond.  
2010 March 19 – Routine clean up  
2010 May 21 – Trim back vegetation at car park, repair of steps at small pond, linseed oil applied to seat at meadow.  
2010 June 8 – Display of pond life at Long Eaton School for the Environmental Fun Day.  
2010 August 8 – Public day – Dragonflies and butterflies.  
2010 September 12 – Routine clean up – hay raking.  
2010 October 24 – Fungal foray with Beverley Rhodes – public event which was well attended.  
2010 November 6 – Display of pond life at the Insect show at Broomfield College – samples from Forbes pond.

**RECORDS:** Routine sampling of the ponds has continued with good results. Problems with fishing as the NO FISHING notice is being ignored. Discarded line often found as well as litter.

**COMMENTS:** Anti social notices have been placed at the site to try to reduce problems. No fishing notices have been torn down.

Thanks to all who have assisted at the site.

Alan W Heath CHAIRMAN/SECRETARY

8 November 2010

## Rare find at Attenborough Nature Reserve



**Stalked puffball *Tulostoma brumalea***

In November, Winter stalkball *Tulostoma brumalea* was found at Attenborough Nature Reserve by a member of the public. This was the first time it had been recorded in the county since 1898. The species was more common in the Victorian era. Its occurrence is associated with the use of alkaline lime mortar used in building work at the time. The tiny fungus was identified by Mr Richard Rhodes of the Nottinghamshire Fungi Group who were leading a fungus foray at the reserve.

# Alan Heath: Long Eaton Weather 2010.

## WEATHER SUMMARY - 2010

PREVAILING WIND	- WEST
LEAST WIND	- South-East
WARMEST DAY	- 23 May - 85° F
COLDEST DAY	- 7 December - 12° F
WETTEST DAY	- 23 August - 14.9 mm
WETTEST MONTH	- August
DRIEST MONTH	- May
DAYS WITH OVER AN INCH OF RAIN	- none
TOTAL THUNDERSTORMS	- 5
TOTAL RAIN	- 519.2 mm (20.45 ins)
TOTAL DRY DAYS + NIGHTS	- 497
TOTAL WET DAYS + NIGHTS	- 233
TOTAL SNOW	- 14 1/8th inches
DAYS WITH NEW SNOW ON GROUND	- 24
TOTAL FOG	- 2
FOG ALL DAY	- 1
BAROMETER - Maximum	- 30.85 Jan 26
Minimum	- 28.65 Nov 8
STRONG WINDS/GALES	- 1 West Gale 11 Nov
AVERAGE MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE	- 67.33
AVERAGE MINIMUM TEMPERATURE	- 29.83
DAYS WITH TEMPERATURES OF 90 F +	- none
DAYS WITH TEMPERATURES OF 80 F +	- 13 2 in May, 8 in June and 3 in July
DAYS WITH TEMPERATURES OF 32 F OR LESS	- 63 12 in Jan, 10 in Feb, 6 in Mar, 1 in Apr, 1 in May, 3 in Oct, 10 in Nov and 20 in Dec
LAST FROST	- May 13
FIRST FROST	- October 17

NOTE : RAINFALL BELOW AVERAGE approx 4 ins.  
NOCTILUCENT CLOUDS - 9 July  
CIRCUMZENITHAL ARC - 1 September

ALAN W. HEATH  
ROSSINOL,  
6, HARLAXTON DRIVE,  
LONG EATON,  
NOTTINGHAM,  
NG10 2ER.

# Alan Heath: Long Eaton Weather 2010 continued

## WEATHER SUMMARY - 2010

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
TEMPERATURE Max	47	48	62	69	85	84	83	78	73	70	61	48
Min	18	27	21	30	32	43	48	42	41	29	15	12
Day	29.4	22.1	30.1	19.0	11.6	28.1	31.8	43.2	16.5	40.6	24.2	8.6
Night	13.3	20.9	12.3	8.4	3.3	28.5	6.7	48.6	25.8	16.1	19.2	10.9
Total	42.7	43.0	42.4	27.4	14.9	56.6	38.5	91.8	42.3	56.7	43.4	19.5
DAYS DRY	18	12	20	23	24	23	20	16	22	22	19	21
NIGHTS DRY	18	15	23	25	28	23	23	19	20	23	20	20
DRY DAYS + NIGHT	36	27	43	48	52	46	43	35	42	45	39	41
DAYS WITH RAIN	13	16	11	7	7	7	11	15	8	9	11	10
NIGHTS RAIN	13	13	8	5	3	7	8	12	10	8	10	11
RAIN - inches	1.68	1.69	1.67	1.08	0.59	2.23	1.52	3.16	1.67	2.23	1.71	0.77
WETTEST DAY	22	26	25	29	29	6	14	18	7	1	8	28
THUNDERSTORMS	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	1	-	-	-	-
BAROMETER Max	30.85	30.35	30.55	30.60	30.50	30.45	30.25	30.35	30.20	30.40	30.05	30.70
Min	29.30	28.95	28.95	29.45	29.60	29.50	29.40	29.40	29.45	29.30	28.65	29.30
FOG ALL DAY	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
DAYS WITH NEW SNOW ON GROUND	6	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	5	7
SNOW - Ins	4½	2½	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2¼	4 7/8th
DAYS WITH TEMPERATURES OF 80° OR MORE	-	-	-	-	2	8	3	-	-	-	-	-
DAYS WITH TEMPS OF 32° OR LESS	12	10	6	1	1	-	-	-	-	3	10	20

# Alan Heath: Long Eaton Weather 2010 continued

WIND - 2010									
	N	NE	E	SE	S	SW	W	NW	TOTAL
Jan	4	5	2	1	3	-	-	6	21
Feb	2	8	1	-	2	4	3	1	21
Mar	2	3	3	-	5	7	7	3	30
Apr	4	5	2	-	1	4	5	3	24
May	4	8	3	-	-	2	7	4	28
Jun	6	6	3	-	3	5	4	-	27
Jul	-	3	1	-	2	9	12	4	31
Aug	4	5	1	-	-	4	14	3	31
Sep	1	2	3	1	4	5	7	3	26
Oct	3	4	3	-	4	3	8	2	27
Nov	3	6	1	1	2	1	6	2	22
Dec	4	1	3	-	-	1	2	1	12
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>300</b>

Coldest November since the records began in 1960 with a low of 15 F

December was cold with a low of 12 F but we had a low of 9 F in 1981

Rainfall - December was the driest December since the records began but only just -  
 December 2004 - 0.78 inches  
 December 2010 - 0.77 inches

## Bird Report John and Judy Langford

### Old Sawley, Sawley Bridge and towpath up to the site of the Long Horse Bridge 2 January 2011

Since the demolition of the Long Horse Bridge\*, this section of the River Trent towpath is not greatly frequented, though kept in good order. The former gravel pits south of the river are now fishing lakes, though largely frozen over on 2nd January.

Tufted duck c 75	Goosander 2 (river below weir)
Mallard	Great crested grebe 10
Pochard 2	Mute swan 6
Coot	Canada geese 49 (one with white neck, a cross?)
Moorhen 2	Kestrel 2
Grey heron 1	Jackdaw
Bittern 1	Magpie
Cormorant 2	Stock dove 2
Blackheaded gull	*See also page 13
Great tit	
Robin	
Carrion crow 2	
Blackbird	
Fieldfare	
Buzzard (Margins of fishing pool near M1 bridge)	

# Alan Heath:50 years of weather recording.

Weather Records have been kept by the writer for many years but for the period 1st January 1960 to 31st December 2009 inclusive, it has been possible to compile a record for 50 years.

The writer was encouraged to do weather recording by the late F.W. Graham, former headmaster of Grange School, Long Eaton and whilst a pupil at that school in the 1940s was weather monitor. Only later was it possible to produce regular weather records from a fixed location in Long Eaton.

The main reason for keeping records was to supplement data for natural history and astronomy, both subjects in which the writer was deeply involved. It is well known that changes of weather over short distances occur in Long Eaton, especially rainfall.

The Weather Station was at 136 Trowell Grove, Long Eaton from 1960 to 1997 after which it moved to 6 Harlaxton Drive Long Eaton which is still within the Long Eaton boundary.

LOCATION : 136 Trowell Grove, Long Eaton  
52° 54' 22" N 1° 17' 14" W  
National Grid Reference 479 347 Height 36metres  
6 Harlaxton Drive, Long Eaton  
52° 54' 03" N 1° 15' 18" W  
National Grid Reference 501 340 Height 30 metres

The two locations are separated by 1½ miles (2.25 km)

MONTH IN WHICH VERY STRONG WINDS INCLUDING GALES OCCUR MOST FREQUENTLY	January
MONTH IN WHICH VERY STRONG WINDS INCLUDING GALES OCCUR LEAST FREQUENTLY	July
DIRECTION FROM WHICH VERY STRONG WINDS INCLUDING GALES OCCUR MOST FREQUENTLY	West (149)
DIRECTION FROM WHICH VERY STRONG WINDS INCLUDING GALES OCCUR LEAST FREQUENTLY	East (None)

\* \* \* \* \*



Alan Heath with weather station 1997

Occasional blanks appear in the tables which are due to holidays, illness etc. A single record covering two consecutive months may appear, again the overlap being due to absence in part of each month.

Sometimes an absence is covered by another person, hence the missing records are minimal and do not affect the overall results.

The Rainfall record is from 1967 (43 years) but it has been possible to record the number of wet/dry days, thunderstorms etc., for the whole 50 years.



# Alan Heath:50 years Summary 1960-2009

HIGHEST TEMPERATURE	98 $\frac{1}{2}$ ° F	3 August 1990
LOWEST TEMPERATURE	6° F	23 January 1963 followed closely by 7 on 14 January 1972
AVERAGE MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE	87.94	
AVERAGE MINIMUM TEMPERATURE	19.34	
HIGHEST BAROMETER	31.10	26 January 1992
LOWEST BAROMETER	28.25	1 December 1966
TOTAL RAIN	1070.53 inches	(1967-2009)
AVERAGE RAINFALL PER YEAR	24.89 inches	
AVERAGE RAINFALL PER WEEK	0.47 inches	
WETTEST YEAR	1982 with 32.98 inches	
DRIEST YEAR	1991 with 17.20 inches	
WETTEST MONTH	June 1982 with 7.49 inches	
DRIEST MONTH	January 1963 with no rain but there was a little snow	
HEAVIEST RAINFALL	30th June 1992 with 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches in an hour	
THUNDERSTORMS	317	
GREATEST NUMBER OF THUNDERSTORMS	-	15 in 1982
LEAST NUMBER OF THUNDERSTORMS	-	2 in 1962
MONTH IN WHICH THUNDERSTORMS MOST FREQUENTLY	-	July
AVERAGE THUNDERSTORMS PER YEAR	6.34	
TOTAL SNOW	206.25 inches	
GREATEST SNOWFALL	20.75 inches	in 1979
LEAST SNOWFALL	None	in 1961, 1974, 1992 and 2002
DAYS WITH NEW SNOW ON GROUND	259	
AVERAGE DAYS WITH NEW SNOW ON GROUND	5.18	
TOTAL FOG	345	
AVERAGE FOGS PER YEAR	6.98	
GREATEST NUMBER OF FOGS/YEAR	24	in 1964
LEAST NUMBER OF FOGS/YEAR	None	in 1994 and 2004
MONTH IN WHICH FOG OCCURED MOST FREQUENTLY	December	
PREVAILING WIND	West	
LEAST WIND	South East	
VERY STRONG WINDS INCLUDING GALES	260	
AVERAGE VERY STRONG WINDS INCLUDING GALES	5.20	
TOTAL GALES	50	
AVERAGE GALES PER YEAR	1	

## Fungus Foray :Forbes Hole 24 October 2010

An excellent turnout of 22 people came to the Fungi Foray at Forbes Hole Local Nature Reserve, Fields Farm Road, Long Eaton on Sunday 24 October 2010. We enjoyed a wonderful afternoon in the sunshine, led by local expert Beverley Rhodes who explained the various types of toadstools to be found. We found a good array of fungi including a record for the site, Parrot Wax Cap. All Wax Caps are found on ancient well managed meadows so it was lovely to find this. We also found Blushing Bracket, Collared Earthstar and the spooky Deadman's Fingers! Beverley has kindly offered to put together a full list of all the fungi collected on the day.

Beverley writes: Our third visit to the Local Nature Reserve. It is an interesting site with much wet willow woodland. The open areas and dead wood provided additional habitat. 22 species named using Roger Phillips and other texts: Particular favourite finds were the Parrot waxcap, Collared earthstar and Upright Coral.

Ascoryne sarcoides Purple jellydisc  
Auricularia auricular-judae Ear Fungus  
Clitocybe nebularis Clouded agaric  
Clitocybe rivulosa Fools funnel  
Coprinus atrementarius Common inkcap  
Coprinus micaceus Glistening inkcap  
Daedelopsis confragosa Blushing bracket  
Gastrum triplex Collared earthstar  
Hygrocybe psitticina Parrot waxcap  
Hypholoma fasciculare Sulphur tuft  
Lycoperdon pyriforme Stump puffball

Lycoperdon pyriforme Stump puffball  
Mycena arcangeliana Angel's bonnet  
Mycena galericulata Common bonnet  
Mycena polygramma Grooved bonnet  
Phellinus igniarius Willow bracket  
Pholiota squarrosa Shaggy Pholiota  
Pluteus cervinus Deer shield  
Ramaria stricta Upright coral  
Trametes versicolor Turkey Tail  
Xylaria hypoxylon Candlesnuff  
Xylaria polymorpha Dead man's fingers



Hazel Gell's basket of fungi

## Fungus foray Pioneer Meadows 31 October 2010

A great end to the autumn season with a variety of fungus finds associated with grassland and woodland, particularly oak, birch, hawthorn and willow. The most interesting finds were the Willow Shield, Spectacular Rustgill and Wax caps, new to the site but indicators of favourable management.

Amanita muscaria Fly Agaric  
Armillaria mellea Honey Fungus  
Bjerkandra adusta Smokey Bracket  
Clavulina cinerea Grey Coral  
Clitocybe gibba Common Funnelcap  
Clitocybe nebularis Clouded Agaric  
Clitocybe rivulosa Fools Funnel  
Collybia butyracea Buttercap  
Collybia dryophila Russet Toughshank  
Collybia erythropus Redleg Toughshank  
Coprinus micaceus Glistening Ink cap  
Coprinus plicatilis Pleated Inkcap  
Coriolus versicolor Turkey Tail  
Cortinarius umbrinolens poss  
Crepidotus variabilis Variable Osterling  
Daedelopsis confragosa Blushing Bracket  
Entoloma rhodopolium Wood Pinkgill  
Hebeloma crustulineforme Poison Pie  
Hygrocybe chlorophana Yellow waxcap  
Hygrocybe psittacina Parrot Waxcap  
Hygrocybe virginea Snowy Waxcap  
Inocybe geophylla White Fibrecap  
Inocybe lacera Torn Fibrecap

Laccaria amethysta Amethyst Deceiver  
Lepista flaccida Tawny Funnel  
Laccaria laccata The Deceiver  
Lepista nuda Wood Blewit  
Lycoperdon perlatum Common Puffball  
Lyophyllum decastes Chicken Mushroom  
Macrolepiota rhacodes Shaggy Parasol  
Mycena archangelina Angels Bonnet  
Mycena galericulata Common Bonnet  
Mycena polygramma Grooved Bonnet  
Mycena vitalis Snapping Bonnet  
Pluteus cervinus Deer Shield  
Pluteus salicinus Willow Shield  
Psathyrella conopilus Conical Brittlestem  
Psathyrella multipedata Clustered Brittlestem  
Hygrocybe russocoriacea Cedarwood waxcap  
Gymnopilus junonius Spectacular Rustgill  
Rickenella fibula OrangeMossCap  
Russula exalbicans Bleached Brittlegill  
Stereum hirsutum Hairy Stereum  
Stropharia semiglobataDung Roundhead  
Tricholoma fulvum BirchKnight  
Xylaria hypoxylon Candle snuff

## Alan Heath: Garden Birds 6 Harlaxton Drive Long Eator

BLACKBIRD	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/			/	
BLUE TIT	/	/	/	/	/				/			
BULLFINCH												
CHAFFINCH	/		/									
COLLARED DOVE	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	
CORMORANT												
CROW												
DUNNOCK	/			/								
GOLDFINCH				/								
GT. SPOTTED WOODPECKER						/						
GREAT TIT	/	/	/	/	/			/	/	/	/	
GREY WAGTAIL											/	
HERON				/				/			/	
KESTREL												
LONG-TAIL TIT									/			
MAGPIE	/	/	/	/		/	/	/	/	/	/	
ROBIN	/	/	/	/		/	/	/	/			
SPARROW, HOUSE	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/			
STARLING	/			/	/	/	/	/	/			
SWALLOW												
SWIFT												
THRUSH, MISSEL				/								
THRUSH, SONG												
WOODPIGEON	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	/	
WREN	/											
	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC

## Alan Heath: Garden Butterflies 6 Harlaxton Drive

BRIMSTONE				/					/			
COMMA									/			
COMMON BLUE								/				
GATEKEEPER												
HOLLY BLUE												
LARGE WHITE						/						
MEADOW BROWN												
ORANGE TIP				/	/							
PAINTED LADY												
PEACOCK					/							
RED ADMIRAL									/			
RINGLET						/						
SMALL COPPER												
SMALL SKIPPER												
SMALL TORTOISEHELL				/		/						
SMALL WHITE				/			/	/	/			
SPECKLED WOOD					/				/			
	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC

# Gwen Bates Garden Birds 4 Hardy Close

	J	F	M	A	My	J	Jy	A	S	O	N	D
blue tit	2	3	2	3	2	3	2	4	4	3	3	2
robin	1	2	2	1	2	2	1	1	1	1	1	1
blackbird	4	4	3	4	4	3	7	2	3	4	3	3
house sparrow	2	2	1	2	3	8	6	12		2	2	3
starling	20	20	20	10	7	6	6	1		20	20	20
dunnock	1		1					1	2	1	1	2
chaffinch	2	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	8	4
great tit	1	1	2		2			2	2	2	2	2
greenfinch	8	6	4	4	5	3	4	3	6	9	7	5
collared dove	2	2	6	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
coal tit												
longtailed tit	2	2		4	2	1						
goldfinch	5	4	2	4	2	1	2	4		10	6	8
crow		2		2	2	1	2	1		1	2	
magpie			1	1	1					2	1	1
mistle thrush												
song thrush	2	1	1	1			1				1	
sparrow hawk												
wood pigeon	3	2	5	2	4	3	3	5	3	3	2	3
wren	1	2					1				1	2
bullfinch			2		2	1	2				1	5
field fare	6	1	1									
wood pecker										1		
pie'd wagtail												1
redwing	4											

YEAR 2010

NAME GWEN BATES

ADDRESS 4 HARDY CLOSE  
LONG EATON.

# Joan and Keith Breakwell Garden Birds

Bird	J	F	M	A	My	Jn	Jy	A	S	O	N	D
Blue tit	3	3	4	4	2	12	10	9	6	3	5	3
Robin	1	2	2	2	2	3	3	3	3	2	2	2
Blackbird	3	4	3	4	3	3	5	5	7	6	8	4
House sparrow	9	11	12	6	3	4	10	11	6	8	15	11
Starling	12	3	3	6	39	21	11	2	1	2	4	16
Dunnock	2	2	2	2	4	3	2	2	3	2	2	1
Chaffinch	12	12	14	3	2	9	9	3	4	4	8	22
Great tit	2	2	2	2	5	5	4	4	2	7	2	3
Greenfinch	4	4	3	4	6	4	2	3	5	3	3	5
Collared dove	2	2	2	4	2	3	3	3	5	4	3	3
Blackcap	1	1	1									
Brambling	1											
Black-headed	0	0	0				0	0	0	0	0	0
Bullfinch	2			2						1		2
Buzzard										0		
Chiffchaff				1								
Coal tit									2	2	2	1
Cormorant												0
Crow	1	1	2	2	2	1	0	0	0	0	1	1
Fieldfare	10											
Goldfinch	15	12	11	11	8	9	6	13	38	38	16	20
Gt spt woodpkr	1	1					1			1		1
Heron			0	1					1			1
Herring gull							0	0	0		0	0
Housemartin					0	0	0	0	0			
Jackdaw											0	
Long tailed tit	2	2	2	2	4	8	9	6	11	4	4	5
Magpie	2	2	1	2	1	2	2	2	2	3	1	1
Mallard		3		2	2							
Mistle thrush		0										
Pheasant			1									
Pied wagtail												1
Redpoll		2										
Redwing	9	1								1		2
Song thrush	1		1		1	1						1
Sparrowhawk							0	0	1	1	1	
Stockdove					2	2	2	2			2	2
Swift						0						
Wood pigeon	6	10	6	4	5	4	3	2	2	3	4	5
Wren		1	1	1	1		1	1			1	1

These birds were seen at 60 Wensleydale Road, Long Eaton by Joan & Keith Breakwell.

The figures are the highest number of each species seen in the garden at any one time during the month. 0 denotes a bird that was seen, but didn't land in the garden.

# The Birds of 114 by John and Judy Langford



**114 Breedon Stree, Long Eaton**

Judy and I moved into 114 Breedon Street, Long Eaton on 8<sup>th</sup> November 1972 and resolved to keep a bird species list for every month. Now, 458 months later, it is high time that LENS had some idea of our record.

## The Method

The method is simplicity itself. A list, headed 'Jan birds' 'Feb birds' and so on, is maintained by the kitchen window, with the binoculars, onto which every bird species for the month is written, together with notes as to behaviour, nesting, or numbers in the case of winter visitors. Other remarks, notes on butterflies, mammals, etc, are added.

At each month end, the species present are transferred to the year list - 'Birds of 114-2011', is the current one - which is essentially a grid with the species down the side (in the same order as previous years' lists) and the 12 months across the top. Remarks of any permanent significance are added on the right hand side.

Every few years, a 'summary sheet' is produced to bring

the records together and identify trends. From these summaries the present survey is derived.

As said, all this is very simple: what is required is discipline and consistency.

## What have we got?

In the front we just have the lilac, five privet bushes, golden rod, honesty, cotoneaster and some unruly roses.

The house is double fronted, well built, about 1910, but offers few opportunities for birds to nest.

The back garden now has two sizeable lawns (one taking the place of an overgrown Lonicera a few years ago). It is surrounded by Hypericum, Buddleia, a large tree of privet and the usual borders and flowering shrubs. The conservation area (Huh!) at the bottom, has greengage, apple and blue plum trees, partly overgrown with ivy, with plenty of understory of brambles; the potting shed is now lost to ivy. Sounds bucolic doesn't it?

## Asides

Perhaps in hindsight we may wish to have been as assiduous in recording our butterflies as our birds. Suffice to say that the buddleia bushes are a joy to us in summer and we're proud that we now host the speckled wood from April to October each year. The comma seems more frequent too.

Grey squirrels pass through occasionally, though it is many years since a pair of hedgehogs brought up their family beneath the sprawling Lonicera, or our fox would cross the lawn at night seeking some sustenance. Closer fencing and installation of side gates may be proving barriers to the mobility of some mammals.

## Do we feed the birds?

Yes, we have two bird tables for the usual scraps - end of the loaf, fat off the bacon, porridge, etc - and we keep two or three nut feeders on the go each winter, much frequented by the tit species. Cores of apple and pear go on the floor, but we try not to encourage the local cat population.

## The Birds

### The Statistics

The total number of species recorded is 48 (including one escape), the names of all of which appear in these notes.

The species tally for summer months is normally 8-12, with a record of 16 in June 2010, whereas winter months' totals tend to be higher, say 10-16 species. 19 in January 1982 remains the all-time maximum number of species in any month over the 38 years, though this present month (January 2011) may prove a contender.

As to yearly species totals, this has varied between 16 and 23 in recent years, the max, being 24 in 1985.

Only birds actually touching down on house or garden are included, not just flying over, hence several species common in the locality receive only occasional mention or not at all.

### The Daily Birds

Very few species occur every day: **house sparrow**, **blackbird**, **blue tit** and **starling** could be relied upon, but since mid 2008 the local starling population must have suffered a decline and whole months now go by without a single sighting.

Numbers of house sparrows have, of course, declined nationally, but continue to be present here most days, but in small numbers.



**Bluetit**

# The Birds of 114 by John and Judy Langford

## The Rare Visitors

After the daily birds, I introduce some of those species at the other end of the spectrum, birds with a single recorded appearance here over the 38 years:-

**Tawny owl** – a young bird calling to another in July 1975.

**Golden pheasant** – obviously an escape, in May 1983.

**Nuthatch** – in August 1985 – a scarce bird in Long Eaton.

**Grey heron** – touched down briefly on greengage tree, October 2007.

**Peregrine** – in November 2009.

**Pied wagtail** and **swallow**, not mentioned elsewhere, are other birds that, perhaps surprisingly, have only one record for house and garden. Swallows are not often seen in this part of Long Eaton.

Similarly, the **house martin** has been recorded just twice, though they nest on other houses in Breedon Street.

## Pigeons and Crows

Remarkably, and it's hard to believe today, the **wood pigeon** was not recorded at all over the years 1972 to 1982, then only once in April 1983 and once in April 1986. It was not until 1995 that records became more frequent, gradually increasing to the situation now when the bird is present almost every day.

And of course the **collared dove** has increased (we rather like them!) – and so has the wretched **magpie**.

Perhaps surprisingly, we have only one record for **feral pigeon**, a very common bird in Long Eaton town centre and elsewhere.

Judy asks me to mention the venerable visitor from the roof tops and chimney pots of William Street (and elsewhere) the '**carry-on crow**'. Crows always look to be a certain age, but, of course, they die and are replaced like any other bird.

**Rook** and **jackdaw** are uncommon in this part of Long Eaton, but individuals have occurred in past years.

## Birds of Prey

The **sparrowhawk** is now more frequent in urban areas and we have had 11 visits since 1995, but only one before that, in 1986. The kestrel has not, to our knowledge, visited house or garden, though is frequently seen in Long Eaton and hunting over the M1.

The one tawny owl record has been mentioned, though the bird is heard at night from time to time, mainly in the winter months. I suppose one ought to record these 'hearings'.

## The Finches

One of the most significant reductions in a group of species seems to be in the finches. Chaffinch and greenfinch were regular visitors (but not in every month) in the 1970s and 1980s, but are now quite uncommon – the **chaffinch** only noted once in the last 4 years 2007-2010, the **greenfinch** only 9 times.

We hear **goldfinches** flying over regularly, but they seldom touch down. **Bullfinches** have always been scarce here.

**Redpoll** had 13 recordings up to 1992, but rarely since – last record October 2006. **Siskin** has only been seen once since March and April 1973, in February 1994.

## The Tits

The blue tit has been mentioned, happily, under 'Daily Birds', with the **great tit** recorded most months of the year, though not always in summer. The **coal tit** is rather spasmodic, but recorded most years.

**Long tails** – bottle tits, bumbarrels – are far more frequent than they were. We had only 3 records for the years 1972 to 1992, now, since early 2009, calling here in most months.

The **goldcrest** occasionally passes through – 14 records. As an aside, Long Eaton railway station is a good place for this species; listen for their distinctive high pitched song.

## The Woodpeckers

We are perhaps lucky to have had 4 sightings of **lesser spotted woodpecker**, in March and April 1975, September 1982 and March 1986, but not regrettably since, which proves they are (or were) 'around', though rarely seen.

The **great spotted** has 2 records, in August 1993 and March 2001.

Green woodpeckers are present in West Park, of course, but we have no record here.



**Golden pheasant**



**Greenfinch**

# The Birds of 114 by John and Judy Langford

## Nesting

We have few claims to fame, though **swifts** nested (or attempted to) on the south-east corner of the house in 2009 and 2010. We have never wanted to disturb potential nest sites for **robin**, **wren**, **dunnock** and blackbird in the wilderness at the bottom of the garden round the old potting shed, and we have never sought to prove nesting.

**Blackcap** nested, in thick ivy surrounding our Worcester apple tree, in May and June 2001, and I saw the male feeding two young out on the greengage tree on 7<sup>th</sup> June, after which they departed.

In 2002, a female was spotted in February, March and April but not thereafter, and in 2003 a male was seen in February and March. A pair was present in April and May 2006, the male in full song, but we never proved nesting success.

Other than that, the blackcap – yes, John's favourite bird! – is only an occasional winter visitor.

(Judy's favourite bird is unlikely to be seen in a Long Eaton garden).

## Warblers and Flycatchers

As we all know, **willow warblers** and chiffchaffs are 'look alike's' – easily confused when not singing; we have done our best with the resources at our disposal!

Willow warblers were regular callers in our earlier years – 11 occasions p to 1992 – but less so recently – total 22 records, but beating the **chiffchaff** with just 13 records. One chiffchaff on the lilac in the front garden on 2<sup>nd</sup> January 1977, was a very grey looking individual, perhaps of the Siberian race, *Phylloscopus collybita tristis*.

The **whitethroat** has visited once in August 1978 and the **lesser whitethroat** once in June 1985, but not since.

Here, we might state the obvious; the small unobtrusive species – wren, dunnock, the warblers, goldcrest – may of course have been present searching for food in the undergrowth but are easily overlooked.

A **spotted flycatcher** called briefly in late August 2006 providing another all time first for the garden, the only visit of this lovely little bird.

## Winter Visitors



Fieldfare

As I copy out these notes on 6<sup>th</sup> January 2011, a **mistle thrush** has just alighted on the top of the greengage and a **redwing** is down on the flower beds – unusually, for redwings are normally content to take the hawthorn berries. Hard winters also bring the odd **fieldfare** (but recorded in only 17 months over the 38 years) and in the early years we had 3 occurrences of **reed bunting**.

This winter the maximum number of redwings present at one time has been 12, but previous hard winters have brought considerably more.

**Black headed gulls** have touched down in the garden for food in past winters – 7 records in all – but not recently.

Sadly the **song thrush**, once present in the garden in almost every month and potentially nesting in the early years, has been absent, our last sighting being in May 2007.

A male chaffinch is on the lawn, the first for many months it is almost as if the birds know they are being written about!

## Any Conclusions?

All such records reflect our own ability to correspond with the birds present, whether feeding or nesting or just passing through. All the requirements of two busy lives, let alone trips away and holidays (and, in earlier years, that thing called work!), mean that the total record is random rather than scientific.

Were we to engage a tireless eye scanning the house and garden all day every day, then the record would, no doubt, be greatly enhanced.

But, we can say that the job, with its limitations, has been sustained over the thirty eight years (and will be continued!). Trends in bird populations and behaviour do emerge and are worth recording.

Enough! Talk to us at LENS meetings or outings if you disagree!

John and Judy Langford January 2011



John and Judy Langford January 2011



# Marion Bryce Local Mammals

## ZOOLOGY.

### MAMMALIA.

- Fox**, *Vulpes alopec*, L. Common throughout the county.
- Pine Marten**, *Mustela martes*, L. Probably now extinct. Two specimens in the Nottingham Museum were captured on the Worksop Manor estate about 1872.
- Polecat**, *Putorius fetidus*, (auct.) Rare. Mr. W. Rose has seen specimens which were taken at Beeston and East Bridgford. A fine male was caught in Sherwood Forest near Retford, Jan., 1891. (L. Buttress)
- Stoat**, *P. ermineus*, L. Common.
- Weasel**, *P. vulgaris*, Gmel. Common.
- Badger**, *Moles taxus*, Bodd. Still occurs occasionally in Sherwood Forest and along the Trent, as at Kneeton and Clifton Grove. At the latter place two specimens were seen on May 18th, 1893, one of which was captured and is now in the Nottingham Museum. A specimen was taken on the Aspley Hall estate, as recorded in the "Field," Jan. 5, 1889.
- Otter**, *Lutra vulgaris*, L. Has been seen occasionally in recent years at Colwick, Clifton Grove, Shardlow, Sawley, Farndon, and other places on the Trent; and a few years ago one was captured in the Erewash at Long Eaton.
- Mole**, *Talpa europaea*, L. Very common.
- Common Shrew**, *Sorex vulgaris*, L. Common. [The Lesser Shrew (*S. minutus*, L.) should occur in the county, but has not apparently been identified].
- Water Shrew**, *Crossopus fodiens*, Pall. Apparently not common, but has been seen at Colwick and Long Eaton (W. Rigby) and near Beeston (W. Rose).
- Hedgehog**, *Erinaceus europaeus*, L. Common.

The Bats have not been properly worked out, but the following species have been identified as occurring in the county :—

- Long Eared Bat**, *Plecotus auritus*, L.
- Pipistrelle**, *Vesperugo pipistrellus*, Schreb.
- Noctule**, *V. noctula*, Schreb.
- Horse-shoe Bat**, *Rhinolophus ferrum-equinum*, L.
- Lesser Horse-shoe Bat**, *R. hipposideros*, Bech. Only known from a specimen picked up dead some years ago at Edwinstowe by Mr. J. R. Hardy, of the Manchester Museum.
- Natterer's Bat**, *Vespertilio natterii*, Kuhl. A specimen was picked up dead at Grove, near Retford, in June. 1888, by Mr. L. Buttress.
- Hare**, *Lepus europaeus*, Pall. Common. Two white varieties were obtained at Bestwood, and one at Rufford, in 1888. (J. Whitaker, F.Z.S.)
- Rabbit**, *L. cuniculus*, L. Common.
- [Black Rat**, *Mus rattus*, L. (?) Mr. W. Rose informs me that a "black rat," caught at Mansfield, was brought to him for preservation some 14 or 15 years ago. May it not have been a dark variety of the next species ?]
- Brown Rat**, *Mus decumanus*, Pall. Too common.
- House Mouse**, *M. musculus*, L. A common pest.
- Harvest Mouse**, *M. minutus*, Pall. Several mice and a nest were seen by W. Rigby in a field near the Easteroft, Nottingham, some years ago.
- Long-tailed Field Mouse**, *M. sylvaticus*, L. Occurs in the county.
- Water Vole**, *Microtus amphibius*, L. Common in all suitable situations.
- Field Vole**, *M. agrestis*, L. } Probably both species occur, but they are not properly distinguished.
- Bank Vole**, *M. glareolus*, Schreb. }
- Squirrel**, *Sciurus vulgaris*, L. Common in woods and parks.

This page is scanned from 'A Contribution to the Geology and Natural History of Nottinghamshire 1893, edited by JW Carr who was a Lecturer and Curator of the Natural History Museum at University College Nottingham. They provide a fascinating glimpse of the mammal population at the turn of the nineteenth century and some of the sites mentioned are local sites.

It is fascinating to know that noctules, pipistrelles, water shrews and otters have probably been in our local area for over a hundred years. We have lost the horseshoe bats and hedgehogs are no longer common. we briefly hosted the coypu *Myocastor coypus* (exterminated 1987) and now have unwelcome mink, badgers, muntjac and sika deer.

The following article aims to give a picture of local mammals today using LENS records and also a Derby Bat Group newsletter.

Marion Bryce



Red deer at Wollaton Park

**Red Deer**, *Cervus elaphus*, L. Occurs in a semi-domesticated condition in one or two parks, as at Welbeck and Wollaton. There is a small herd of the white variety at Welbeck.

**Fallow Deer**, *C. dama*, L. Introduced into various parks, as at Wollaton, Annesley, &c. A large herd of white Fallow Deer exists at Welbeck.

# Marion Bryce Local Mammals

## **Mammalia** (after Carr)

Foxes *Vulpes vulpes* are common throughout our local area, especially so in the towns. Their howling keeps people awake in the winter months.

Pine martens *Martes martes* are coming back from near extinction but sightings are very rare. Most Derbyshire sightings are related to escapes from wild animal collections but there is an expanding natural population moving eastwards from Wales. Not seen locally.

Polecats *Mustela putorius* are not commonly seen, there was a sighting in 2010 at a bird feeder in the Mapperley Reserve near Ilkeston. There are a number of domestic ferrets gone wild in wooded areas with a good food supply and these will breed with native polecats.

Stoat *Mustela erminea*, are common where there are rabbits. Recent sightings have been at Barton Lane near Attenborough Nature Reserve and Bunny Rabbit Lane (Long Lane) Sawley. They are still shot as vermin and a dead stoat in a woodland setting is not an uncommon sight.

Weasels *Mustela nivalis* although not common have been seen in areas where there is long grass and rodents thrive. Recorded recently at Attenborough Nature Reserve, Trent Lock and St Chads in Draycott.

Mink *Neovison vison* First recorded in Derbyshire in 1965, they have colonised most of the county and are still spreading. Floating traps are used to control mink which are implicated in the decline of the water vole locally and nationally. Studies have shown rabbits are a large part of their diet.

Badgers *Meles meles* have become common in areas with woodland or established hedges, right to the edge of the urban fringe. The location of setts is sensitive information as they may be illegally dug out and some of the surviving badgers are used for dog fighting. Three dead badgers were seen at Locko Park in 2008. There are many road casualties and it is unusual to go to IKEA and not see a dead badger on the A610.

For many years otters *Lutra lutra* have been seen regularly in gravel pits at Attenborough, Long Eaton and Shardlow and along the river Trent and Erewash at Attenborough and Long Eaton. The otter is generally accepted to be returning from decline.

Moles *Talpa europaea* are very common in rural areas and follow grassy road verges to the edge of the town at Toton and Sawley. Not often recorded in gardens and unpopular in churchyards. Professional mole catchers still find employment and mole gibbets can be encountered in rural areas.

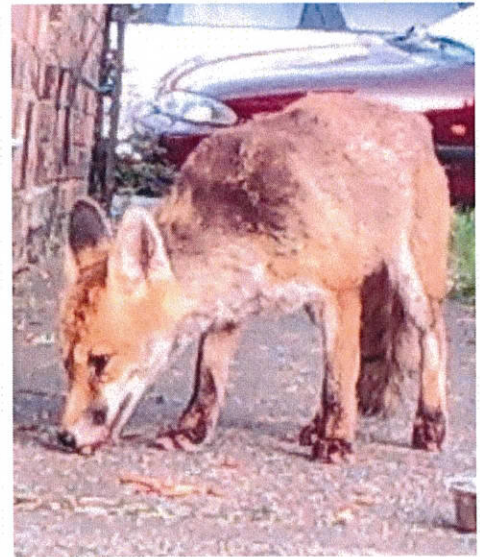
Common shrew *Sorex araneus* This seems to be reasonably common in parks and rural areas. Most records for the town are from cat kills in areas on the urban fringe especially the rough grass area next to the River Erewash at Nottingham Road which is currently the site of a proposed new nature reserve.

Pigmy shrews *Sorex minutus* are an upland species. There has been one sighting in twenty years which was in the Norfolk Road, Long Eaton wild space. According to the internet it has been found in mammal traps at Attenborough Nature Reserve.

Water shrews *Neomys fodiens* are uncommon, especially since the Golden Brook lost its watercress beds and a lot of its wildlife value in the 1970s. Water shrews are still found along the River Erewash, (two dead specimens have been found on land close to the River Erewash at the back of Grange Park 2010) and Breaston Lagoon has records from the 1980s.

Hedgehogs *Erinaceus europaeus* were common but numbers have drastically declined. The few recent sightings are live ones from gardens which are on the edge of the town or have access to the wildlife corridors passing through the town. Many of the old pathways along hedgerows and streams are no longer available. The hedgerows may have been replaced by sectional fencing and the streams may have been culverted. Spring road kills are fewer than in the past but occur on the urban fringe, in the area of Sawley Church and Chilwell Meadows.

The number of bats in the town may have declined as the Golden Brook and the dyke which was the former boundary between Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire have been culverted in several areas. There are many artificial habitats which are used by bats such as railway bridges and buildings. The retreat of industry has created many temporary wildlife areas providing insect food and the many gravel pits and associated shrubbery which have been dug around the town provide food and habitat for bats.



**A fox**

# Marion Bryce Local Mammals

Horseshoe and lesser horseshoe bats are not found in this area today, they are very rare but are found in the southern counties and may be seen in National Trust houses such as Arlington Court.

Brandt's bat *Myotis brandtii* is uncommon in Derbyshire and not recorded locally.

Pipistrelles are now known to be at least three separate species. Soprano *Pipistrellus pygmaeus* and common pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pipistrellus* bats are recorded along water courses and up to the urban fringe. Pipistrelles have been known to take up residence in houses and lofts locally. They have been recorded from Grange Park, Norfolk Road wild space and Toton Sidings.

Nathusius pipistrelle *Pipistrellus nathusii* has regularly been recorded from Trent Lock and Attenborough since the first record for Derbyshire in 2004. This was a grounded bat found in Long Eaton.

Daubenton's bat *Myotis daubentonii* numbers have increased as they are associated with and can be seen flying over most open water picking up moths. The area of open water has increased considerably over the past few years due to gravel extraction and this continues in the Trent Lock and Meadow Lane area.

We do not get many records of brown long eared bats *Plecotus auritus* but they were reported regularly from a porch in Borrowash in the 1980s. The most obvious sign is a pile of discarded moth wings. They have been caught by bird ringers in mist nets at Attenborough Nature Reserve and are regularly recorded in winter from bat boxes in winter at Ticknall and Calke. Numbers are thought to be declining.



Pipistrelle bat

There are recent records of noctules *Nyctalus noctula* flying at Trent Lock, Attenborough, Stoney Clouds, Risley Hill and Dale Abbey. These large bats appear on summer evenings just before darkness falls.

Most myotis bats are difficult to distinguish, although they are frequently picked up on bat walks in our local area, they need sound analysis for species identification. Natterer's bat *Myotis nattereri* are believed to be widespread, recorded from Ticknall in February 2008. Whiskered bats *Myotis mystacinus* can be found in Derbyshire caves in winter at Cromford and have been recorded from Calke in June and Derby in August 2008.

Leislers bats *Nyctalus leisleri* were found in an Elvaston bat box in December 2008. Elvaston Country Park is noted for the remarkable number of different species of bats which are found there(8).

Serotines *Eptesicus serotinus* which often feed on beetles are very uncommon there was a record from Calke May 2008 but it was not recorded in 2010.

Barbastelles *Barbastella barbastellus* are thought to be in the area with possible records from Kedleston and Calke in September and June 2008. They are few and difficult to distinguish from other species.

The brown hare *Lepus europaeus* is common on grassy fields just outside Long Eaton, especially on the fields at Hopwell, the fields around Orchid Wood in Sawley and the airport at Castle Donington. Hares can use grassy road verges, a dead hare was seen on the A52 outside the town. In the 1980s a live hare was reported in the middle of College Street, Long Eaton.

Rabbits *Oryctolagus cuniculus* are common on all pieces of waste ground, coming into the town along the railway corridor and just behind the town hall on the railway land, they are also common in the more rural areas such as Risley, Ockbrook and Sandiacre. Unfortunately myxomatosis which was introduced deliberately in the 1950s is still rife in the area. It is said that at Attenborough Nature Reserve all the rabbits died of the virus and subsequently were reintroduced in order to keep the scrub down.

The black rat is not known in this area, the closest personal record was on the river at Ludlow.

The brown rat *Rattus norvegicus* is very common especially along water courses, in the town the population has increased as one of the only mammals that can survive when a water course is culverted. They can appear at any site in the town as they use the whole drainage system. There are plenty of jobs for pest control agents who are contracted to put down rat traps at many industrial sites although there are few records of how many they actually catch!

The house mouse *Mus domesticus* is very uncommon in our local area. They like warm sites but are not tolerated in buildings. They may occur occasionally but the only near local authenticated record is from the compost heap of a garden in Gedling.

The long tailed field mouse or wood mouse, *Apodemus sylvaticus* is very common and often found in houses as well as wildlife sites and fields. It has been mistaken for a house mouse on many occasions although it has much larger ears and is brown not grey brown. Many are killed by cats but this does not control the population, it is more of a harvest. They are controlled by professional pest control methods.

# Marion Bryce Local Mammals

These days there are still water voles *Arvicola terrestris* along the Erewash Canal between Long Eaton Lock and Dockholme Lock and also at Sandiacre Lock. Many of the water voles along the Golden Brook have disappeared and have gone from Thorsby Road where they were previously common. Water voles are still found on the Golden Brook at Risley in a more rural setting. Another site is at the River Erewash overflow between Norfolk Road Park and the flow control near the bridge near Mayfield Grove., there was evidence of one pair of water voles remaining in 2010. The Environmental Protection Agency and Wildlife Trusts are aware of the water voles along the Erewash Canal and improvements to the canal side carried out as part of the, recently developed, Erewash Valley Trail have been sensitive to the requirements of the water voles.

Field voles *Microtus agrestis* are rarely seen but little holes by the side of the footpath in fields close to the town are signs of field voles. If the tunnel is followed back the reward is a nest of finely chopped grass. They are probably quite common. They have been trapped at Attenborough.

Bank voles *Myodes glareolus* can be a nuisance in parks and gardens, nipping off every hyacinth flower for no obvious reason. They have been recorded as cat kill in Long Eaton, in nature reserves and also the A52 road verge. They are probably very common but not often seen and easily mistaken for rats.

Harvest mice *Micromys minutus* are bright brown small mice with a prehensile tail they use for climbing up long grass stems. Their nests may be searched for in winter and are often in the reeds by water. They have been found at Breaston Lagoon and Attenborough Nature Reserve.



Harvest mouse

Large and brightly coloured, yellow necked mice *Apodemus flavicollis* are found in mature woodland. Yellow necked mice could possibly be moving into our local area. There are records of yellow necked mice from Attenborough but long tailed field mice do also have a yellow neck so the sightings may be mistaken.

We have no records of dormice *Muscardinus avellanarius* which have been introduced to sites at Calke and Cromford.

Grey squirrels *Sciurus carolinensis* are very common in town and countryside. They have benefited from the many bird feeders in people's gardens. They are generally liked and control measures are very low key but necessary.

Red deer *Cervus elaphus* are kept in herds at Calke, Wollaton, Lea and Cromford. There are probably many escapes. Feral herds of up to 17 have been seen locally at Risley Hill, Ockbrook and Smalley.

Sika deer *Cervus nippon* are unwelcome aliens as they hybridise with red deer. The only record locally is from Morley Hayes.

The pretty fallow deer *Dama dama* are kept at Calke, Wollaton and Locko Park. There are probably many escapes. Feral herds of up to 15 have been seen at Risley, the Stanton Ironworks Site and Hopwell Cottage Farm.

The motorway and A52 corridors are used by deer to travel large distances and it was in 1980 that a deer the size of a large dog was seen on Wilsthorpe Road near West Park. The first recorded occurrence in Derbyshire was at Matlock in 1948. Muntjac *Muntiacus reevesi* have been recorded at Grange Park, Breaston Lagoon and Forbes Hole. There was a road casualty at Breaston in 2008. The muntjac had been lying up in a garden and was disturbed by workmen coming to mend the fence. Muntjac use railway land to get close to the town centre and their loud cries and bellows can be heard at night. A recent sighting from a wildlife site scheduled for redevelopment in Sandiacre shows that the Erewash Canal is another wildlife corridor in use. Muntjac are very attractive but can cause a lot of damage to young trees and the woodland flora.

We have no records of roe deer *Capreolus capreolus* although they have been seen at Netherfield and Calke.

If you have enjoyed this article you will also enjoy the new Derbyshire Mammal atlas when it hits the shops!

See also

[www.mammal.org.uk](http://www.mammal.org.uk)

[www.derbyshiremammalgroup.com](http://www.derbyshiremammalgroup.com)

<http://www.derbyshirebats.org.uk/>

# Long Horse Bridge

Long Horse Bridge the long lost foot-bridge over the River Trent near Sawley is due to be replaced by British Waterways in 2011. The contract has been awarded and the bridge order has been placed. It will take approximately 4 months to fabricate the bridge at the engineering firm constructing it and then it will be brought to site. The Greenway, for walking, cycling and horse riding, will be built once the bridge is installed. Information from Anna Chapman  
Greenways Officer  
Derbyshire Countryside Service  
Tel: 01629 539653

The bridge is an integral part of the Mid Shires Way. It is a long way round without the bridge, adding over 5 miles to the route. Leaflets detailing the Derbyshire and the Nottinghamshire Section of the Mid Shires Way can be obtained from Middleton Top Centre for a small charge. Contact  
carole.helliwell@derbyshire.gov.uk  
01629 823204



**Swans nest by the footings of the old Long Horse Bridge**

# Rare Pine Sawfly at Chilwell

Our *Pinus wallichiana* was bought from Chatsworth Garden Centre about 1994-95. Approx 12-14" high £25. At Oct 2010 we have had it 15-16 years. It was first 'pruned' 5 years ago (2005) as it was about 14-15' and getting too large.

3 years ago (2007) we first noticed (June) an invasion of caterpillars marching over lawn from end of garden towards house: up chairs, table, rotary washing line, but had

no idea where they were coming from! We kept collecting them until Aug 2007 and taking them to new habitat in Attenborough Nature Reserve. The same invasion occurred in 2008 when we noticed our *Pinus* thinning and saw the 'pests' on the spines and dropping off onto the ground. Same thing last year (2009). This year 2010, we discovered what they were and sprayed with washing liquid water to save our tree!! There must

have been 80-100 in each year – maybe more.

Sept 2010 we sprayed pine again. We have wondered if possibly the first prune and smell of pine may have attracted them.



**Mr and Mrs John Grant with *Pinus wallichiana***

**The pine sawfly *Diprion similis* is a candidate national red data book species**



# Book Review by John Ellis

## Britain's Dragonflies

**Dave Smallshire & Andy Swash, Wild Guides. ISBN 978-1-903657-29-4**

I have long held that photographic field guides were not worth having due to the variable quality of the photographs and colour reproduction during the printing process. Consequently I have always recommended British Wildlife Publishing's A Field Guide to the Dragonflies and Damselflies of Great Britain and Ireland.

However, I have recently bought a copy of Wild Guides book "Britain's Dragonflies" and my views have changed.

This is a second edition with many changes from the first. Towards the front of the book will be found a really excellent set of identification charts and near the back is an equally useful set of charts for the larvae. The bulk of the book is taken up with the species accounts which include all the species seen in Britain to date as well as a number of potential vagrants and fu-

ture colonists. The accounts cover two pages, the left hand including adult identification notes, distribution map and notes on where to look, similar species and observation tips. The right hand page having photographs of male, female and teneral forms. The book also includes sections on dragonfly biology and habitats.

The book is soft-backed with a clear plastic jacket and is slightly larger than A5 containing 208 pages. If you need one dragonfly book then this is it and if your field guide needs replacing I would heartily recommend this guide.

**Volume 2 Issue 7**



**LENS Long Eaton Natural History Society**

**CONTACTS**

**Future Meetings**

**March 14**

Indoor Meeting Golf Can be Fun  
Paul Bingham

Birding Exploits of a golf widower

The club meets on the second Monday of the month throughout the year.

Indoor Meetings start at 7.15 pm in the Social Activities Annex, Long Eaton Public Library, Broad Street, Long Eaton. Outdoor meetings as advertised.

**March 11 Environmental Fun Day**, 1-4 pm, Long Eaton School, Thoresby Road, Long Eaton NG10 3NP

**April 18 Country Walk & Mackworth Church**

Meet 7pm at Markeaton Park main car park (off A52 roundabout) for a short walk to the church. (There may be a parking fee.)

Grid Ref SK 333 373

Leader Betty Bond

**July 3 .....Lakeside Festival** Kirk Hallam Lakes and Meadows from 12.00 to 4.00pm.

See website [www.lensweb.wordpress.com](http://www.lensweb.wordpress.com) or summer programme for further details of activities.

**Please send pictures and wildlife news to the Editor, Marion Bryce**

23 Marlborough Road

Long Eaton

Nottingham

NG10 2BS

E-mail: [Lensnaturalhistory@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:Lensnaturalhistory@yahoo.co.uk)

Thanks to all contributors and J Breakwell, M Bryce, H Gell A Heath, J Travis, B Woodhouse and the net for photographs



**Peacock butterfly at Shipley Park by Hazel Gell**

**DANES Insect Show**



**Helen Knewstubb, David Gell and Marion Bryce photographed by Alan Heath at the Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire Entomological Society Show**

**Membership Renewal Form**

I would like to be a member of Long Eaton Natural History Society

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Tel no \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

I enclose a cheque/postal order for £8.00

The annual subscription entitles members to attend meetings at £1.00 per session.

I agree/do not agree that LENS can keep my name on a database.

Please return completed form to the Hon Treasurer, Helen Knewstubb,

9 Kingsley Crescent, Sawley Long Eaton NG10 3DA