

Autumn 2018

Volume 2 Issue 22

TRENT MEADOWS



Long Eaton Isolation Hospital 1907 Photo credit Picture the Past

Local residents and Wildlife Groups supported a proposal to grant Local Nature Reserve (LNR) status to Trent Meadows in Long Eaton. It is a valuable open space for the local community, visitors and nature conservation in a wildlife-rich area in the green corridor of the River Trent. It is also the former site of the Long Eaton Smallpox Isolation Hospital which was built in 1895 on Mr Claye's field, called "The Honeypots". The field has been reclaimed for nature and the only clue today, is the remains of the old ash tree which can be seen in this old photograph from the internet. Declaring it a LNR helps protect the site for nature. Trent Meadows will be the tenth Local Nature Reserves in Erewash.

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LENS at Cotgrave Festival



LENS Marion Bryce and Derek Brumbill enjoyed a sunny outing at Cotgrave annual Family Fun day. There were over 40 stalls. We had to set up our own gazebo and then we sat back and enjoyed the show. The Beeston Pipe Band started the day with pipes and drums. Dynamique Dance invited children to dance with them to the themes of Unicorns and Paw Patrol. The Mayor of Rushcliffe, Mrs Maureen Stockwood, judged photography, baking and miniature gardens competitions. We enjoyed meeting Karen Hicks from DEFRA although her rescue African spotted eagle owl was taking an all too lively interest in our mammal display. We were also able to catch up with the restoration plans of the Grantham Canal Society. Then we met Peggy Hutchinson with her home-made wine stall and she gave us a recipe for rhubarb wine that has been unkindly described as 'rocket fuel'.

Take part in the
BTO Tawny Owl
calling survey

[https://
www.bto.org/
volunteer-
surveys/project-
owl/tawny-owl-
calling-survey](https://www.bto.org/volunteer-surveys/project-owl/tawny-owl-calling-survey)

LENS at Cotgrave Festival 16 June 2018

Photo credit Marion Bryce

Friends of Forbes Hole

There's something rotten at Forbes Hole! 2 rotboxes, made by Ian Kynaston of Stafford University, have been installed. They look like bat boxes but they are water tight oak boxes filled with oak chippings and holes drilled through the top to let water in. They were devised by Ian as part of his MSc studies of veteran trees. Realising he couldn't grow a veteran tree in a one year project he devised this method of artificial veteranisation. The idea is to encourage hoverflies, beetles and other insects to colonise the box just as they would colonise rot holes in veteran trees. This in turn should attract more birds to the nature reserve.

The Friends of Forbes Hole are working to recover the meadow,

remove sycamore and ash saplings and dig out bramble. The beach area has been extended to the delight of visitors to the site. Flooding curtailed this work which halted during the breeding bird season.

Photographers came to photograph the hairy dragonflies which have been added to a list of x species for the site.

A new information board is to be erected at the entrance and it is hoped the bench will soon be replaced.

The Friends of Forbes Hole meet every Monday at 10 am in the car park NG10 1FX



**Derek Brumbill fits Rotbox
Forbes Hole 3 March 2018
Photo credit Marion Bryce**

LENS at Pioneer Meadows Eco-event

June 11 was a gorgeous sunny day for the eco-event at Pioneer Meadows Local Nature Reserve, organised by Jaimey Richards of Erewash Borough Council. Two schools were invited, Dallimore Primary School and Kirk Hallam School. We arrived early so had a walk around the reserve with Jaimey, helping to identify the wild flowers which have flourished since the grass cutting regime was relaxed.

LENS were asked to facilitate pond dipping and although we had nets and trays etc this was really hard work, the pond has a gravelly bottom and very little pondside vegetation or water weed. After a few hours keen searching we came up with the following list:

Frog tadpoles/ developing froglets 10 (many froglets observed emerging from the pond near the waters edge), Water stick insect 2, Pond slater 2, Caddis fly larvae (cased sp.) 5, Water mite 2, Greater water boatman 1, Pond skater 2, Pond snail 1, Ramshorn snail 1.

Other sightings were common spotted orchid, southern marsh orchid, betony, butterflies: speckled wood, meadow brown, common blue, large skipper, brimstone and ringlet. Dragonflies, four spotted chaser, broad bodied chaser, large red, blue tailed and common blue damselfly.

At the end of the day we were treated to a willow weaving session by Alistair Hayhurst of Underwood Crafts.



**Dave Gell and Stuart Gilder at Pioneer
Meadows Eco-event 11 June 2018
Photo credit Marion Bryce**

LENS at DANES Summer Exhibition

This was held at Shipley Country Park in a committee room just big enough to hold 6 stalls. Felicity and Julie supervised the ever popular pond animal display with microscopes using water from the Shipley Park Pond. It was full of daphnia, mayfly nymphs and they even found a small stick insect. There were a couple of stalls selling invertebrates such as large stick insects and land snails. DaNES Dave Budworth presided over a moth trapping display with some unusual specimens which had been trapped in Dorset and the New Forest including Rosy Footman and Black Arches. Neil Ward's insect loop provided video entertainment.

LENS made a buzz with a bumblebee making activity. First the participants chose their favourite bee then copied the bee 'bar code' by wrapping coloured wool around alder cones. With the addition of plastic wings and a realistic flying action provided by a saw whip, the bees were flying off the production line. There was a good throughput of clients eager to handle the insects and to take part in the two insect hunts that were led by Darren 'The Pied Piper' Clarke on this lovely sunny day.

Danes Summer Exhibition 22 July 2018

Photo credit Marion Bryce



Friends of Forbes Hole

Free! Nature Fun Day
10am-12noon Saturday August
11th Nest box building
Nature Trail, Bumble-bee Detectives & more

You can't help but have fun when Stuart is around. Wonderful weather, good company. Can you beat it? The early starter was Roe who did a quick litter sweep around the site. Then Stuart arrived to put up the nature trail signs. Marion and Marion put up a banner and a table in the car park with Nature Trail leaflets and other edifying literature including Bumble Bee Detectives. Then Derek and Norman headed off to finish off building the bird boxes on the meadow, stapling on some roofing

felt for weatherproofing. Suitable sites were found on some relatively upright trees by the railway path and things went rather well. 8 nestboxes were installed. Having looked at various methods of installation of nestboxes it seemed that an extra lath screwed onto the back which is then screwed onto a suitable tree is the best method. At a height of 3 meters and facing between North and East so the rain from the Westerlies keeps out and there is not too much heat from the sun. If we glue on some large metal washers to keep squirrels out it is job done! Thank you very much to all who came to assist on the day.

The Friends of Forbes Hole meet every Monday at 10 am in the car park NG10 1FX



Forbes Hole Open Day 11 Aug 2018

Photo credit Marion Bryce

LENS at Rotary Club Fun Day

What a windy start to the Rotary Club Fun Day, the Free Family Fun Day organised by Barbara James of the Long Eaton Rotary Club held on Wednesday 15th August 2018.

Gazebos were flying at the Events Field on West Park, but with guy ropes and stout pegs the billowing canvas was tamed and we were able to set out our stall. I don't know which was the most popular, the Insect Lucky Dip, Know your Insects Quiz or Make Your Own Dragonfly?

Erewhash Tree Wardens set up on the stall next to LENS. Send a message to a tree was a secret wish written on a leaf shaped paper which was then hung onto

The bare branches of a tree, this was soon festooned. Pat Ancliff had made a tree fruits quiz which had two levels of difficulty, Pat also brought in a 3 mystery objects, a green walnut, a knopper gall on an acorn and an ash seed gall caused by a mite.

We were so busy we didn't have time to visit the other stalls.

Thanks to Marion Bryce and Penny Newton who entertained the constant stream of children who were so eager to participate, and their parents who could be proud of their knowledge.

At 4pm as the Raffle was drawn and the event closed the sun was still shining but the wind was still seeking.



LENS at Rotary Club Fun Day 15 August 2018

Photo credit Marion Bryce

LENS at Elvaston Woodland Festival

Elvaston Woodland Festival is a celebration of traditional and contemporary woodland crafts such as wood carving, wood turning, willow weaving, and sculpture also bushcraft, foraging, arts, textiles, tools, and much more.

This is a great day out for all the family with lots of fun activities for children, unique items to buy, and see: shire horses, birds of prey and an array of stalls.

New this year were the Vikings of Middle England in the living history encampment and the amazing Arbor, an 18ft tall, part man, part tree. The ever popular Green Man was there with songs and stories.



**LENS Insect Lucky Dip
22 September 2018**

Photo credit Marion Bryce

Stormy weather almost forced cancellation of this event but at the last minute it got the go ahead. Marion, Derek, Stuart and Jasmin set up the LENS stall in the Wildlife Groups section and then the crowds came. Who cares about a bit of rain? Hook a Duck was the most popular activity but many children were brave enough to put their hand in the Insect Lucky Dip.

We all had a good time and were able to raise some money for our conservation activities. Dave Pinney, Joan Breakwell, Dominic Bryce and Adrian Orrell supervised Sunday's activities.

www.lensweb.wordpress.com

In Praise of Brownfield Sites Elizabeth Glennon

My name is Elizabeth Glennon and I live in Cooperative Street in Long Eaton. When I originally moved here the old factories behind my house were a haven for bats and I used to enjoy watching them at night. Sadly, as the the factories were taken down, it became a bit barren of wildlife in our garden.

It is with pleasure that I have watched the growth of new visitors to our garden over the last to years. The old factory site on Oakley's Road has been left to grow wild and it now covered in insect attracting flora and fauna. As a consequence we now get damselflies, dragonflies and four types of butterfly in our garden. The abundance of insects has attracted new birds to the garden, a family of Goldfinches being a very welcome addition. Most significantly we now get flocks of Housemartins swooping and diving over the street in the evenings. The old factory site seems to be a perfect feeding site for them and the old Co-op building on the corner of Cooperative Street still has its exposed eaves and so from the street you can see three nests. I originally thought they were swifts until I saw the nests though if anyone can correct me I'd be happy to know!



House martin

Photo credit Marion Bryce

Observations of Garden Birds Stuart Gilder

During this winter's snow fall I was watching the birds in my garden and noticed there seems to be an hierarchy with the family of Corvids because of the snow fall we had rook jackdaw and magpie turn up for breakfast although the rook is timid bird they were the top of the hierarchy table followed by the magpie and jackdaw. Although the pigeons fight amongst themselves for food they kept out of the way while the Corvids were feeding.

I was pleased to see a male Goldfinch bring his young fledglings to my bird table, this was the first time I had seen a new brood of Goldfinches at home. Sue and I were watching from our kitchen window all the youngsters there with their mouths wide open begging to be fed. This went on just for a few moments and then they all flew away, but one poor little goldfinch flew straight into the kitchen window and knocked itself out.

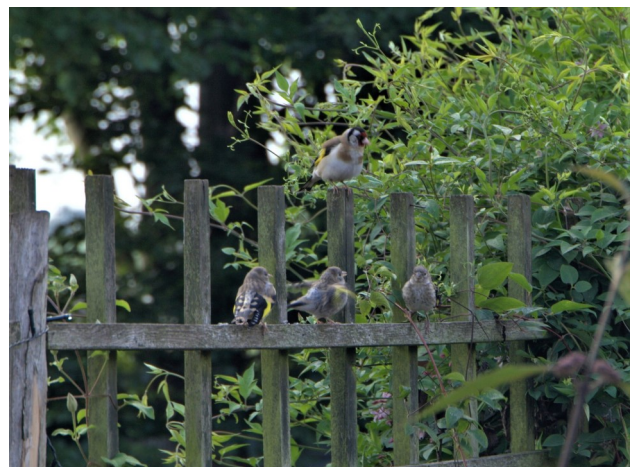


Goldfinch chick at Sandiacre 28 July 2018

Photo credit Stuart Gilder

I went outside to see what had happened as the rest of the goldfinch family had flown away because the resident magpie family were feeding their own family. I know we should not interfere with nature, but I picked up the goldfinch and put it in a box, closed the lid and brought it inside. We were going out later so I left it alone till we got back home. When we returned home we looked at the bird but it still looked dazed and could not fly. After lunch I put the bird into the garden as the magpies seem to feed early in the morning. It was looking a bit brighter and started pecking the ground so I realized that it must be getting hungry. Years ago I did breed canaries and on occasions had to feed them. We boiled an egg and was able to feed the young Goldfinch with the yolk. After a while the male came back calling to the other Goldfinch brood and I am happy to say it flew up to the other fledglings on the bird table and flew away with the rest of them.

Stuart Gilder



Goldfinch Family at Sandiacre 28 July 2018

Photo credit Stuart Gilder

Are There Wild Daffodils in Derbyshire?

April 28 Saturday A Short Walk to Mugginton Meet 10am at layby by dairy on Bullhurst Lane, Weston Underwood DE6 4PA Approx 2.5 miles Leader Marion Bryce.

After some serious flooding it was a relief when the floodwater receded and we were able to set out on the first walk of the season for LENS. On a cold but bright day, a group of 10 walked up the lush grassy hill from Western Underwood to a green lane which leads to Mugginton. The hedge bank was punctuated with rabbit burrows and a fox earth. The elm and hawthorn hedge sheltered native bluebells, arum lilies and greater stitchwort.

Mugginton church is magnificently situated on a knoll, parts date back to the Domesday book. The square tower is Norman. There is some coloured medieval glass in the south window which shines upon an alabaster alter tomb with engraved brasses of a knight and his lady. Stone gargoyles ogle the dark box pews which are rarely seen in churches these days.



Notable memorials were a carved angel, and a magnificent carved headstone which overlooked the valley of the Mercaton Brook. The oldest gravestone we found was dated 1728.

Primroses, mouse-ear hawkweed, field wood-rush and a yellow-green star shaped polytrichum moss contributed towards the impressive biodiversity of flowers in the churchyard where a treasured ancient yew tree has been proven to be over 1100 years old. A decaying shell is guarded by two living sections which are joined with metal rods and plates to keep the tree together. During the middle ages it was common to plant yew trees in churchyards as provision for defence – the wood was needed to make the English longbow.

Leaving the warmth of the church we clumped down a ploughed field to the Cutler Brook. It was very boggy here. Clumps of golden yellow giant buttercups – marsh marigolds also called kingcups or mayblobs and other lovers of wetland were flowering with yellow stars of lesser celandine. Less obvious were the small flowers of opposite leaved yellow saxifrage and bog stitchwort, which with cuckoo flower and great bittercress competed with other flowers to follow. Bright blue eggs nestled in the tightly woven strands of

grass of a thrushes nest, but it had been abandoned, it was too low down for safety.



Now for the exciting part. I could not believe it when I found out there were fields of wild daffodils so close to home. Apparently there are written memories from locals who remember paying to enter the fields and then being allowed to pick as many as they could.



The fenced path to the daffodil fields is lined with egg yolk yellow cultivated daffodils which have bent in the wind whereas the wild plants are not very tall. Over the stile to the daffodil fields. Each flower has a pale yellow corolla of petals, the trumpet is canary yellow. They flower in mid-April and the show is short, this year lasting for only two weeks but a marvellous sight if you can hit the date.

It was too cold to linger long so we followed the track to the Trent Fish Farm which, it seems is no longer in use as a hatchery, the watermill here is a listed building. Among the greylag and Canada geese were four geese which may have been swan or Chinese geese who have made a home on the lake.

To keep us warm we followed the Centenary Way on a gentle uphill climb to Inn Farm Dairy which supplies delicious fresh milk in real glass bottles to refresh weary walkers on their way back to the beginning.

Marion Bryce 3 May 2018

Can the Hoffman Kiln Whale be Saved?

May 14 Monday Oakwell Brickyards

Meet 7pm Straw's Bridge LNR car park, West Hallam, Ilkeston DE7 5FG

Leader Stuart Gilder

On a fine evening we assembled at Straw's Bridge admiring the swans. No wonder they call the pond 'Swan Lake'. Stuart first showed us a living willow sculpture which had been constructed by the Erewash Tree Wardens in 2016. Then we walked past the lake to the Nutbrook Trail where we admired a hedge newly laid by Sustrans volunteers.

Rabbits were grazing the meadow as we turned into Oakwell Brickyards, a former industrial site which is now an interesting woodland site. The Oakwell brickworks began production c1879 and closed in the 1960s due to lack of orders, but there is still a gargantuan old Hoffman kiln hidden in the shady wood.



According to Wikipedia, a Hoffmann kiln is a series of batch process kilns used in production of bricks and consists of a main fire passage surrounded on each side by several small rooms. Each room contains a pallet of bricks. In the main fire passage there is a *fire wagon*, which, fuelled by wood or coal, burns continuously. Each room is heated until the bricks are vitrified, then the fire wagon is rolled to the next room to be fired. As the gases pass through the kiln circuit, they gradually cool as they transfer heat to the brick. In addition to the inner opening to the fire passage, each room also has an outside door, to remove recently fired bricks, which are replaced with wet brick to be dried and then fired in the next firing cycle.

Built between 1900 and 1913 of pink brick, the kiln is rectangular with rounded ends. The walls taper inwards to the corrugated iron roof, which is surmounted by a semi-circular canopy with open ends. There are two tiers of openings. The lower tier consists of fourteen round-headed entrances to the two parallel segment vaulted furnaces, which connect at the rounded ends. The upper tier has ten square openings; on the south side the wall has partially collapsed around one opening. The Grade II listed Hoffmann brick kiln is badly neglected, trees and ferns have forced their way between the fence and the building and have anchored between the

bricks. There are only 5 Hoffmann kilns remaining in the UK.

It was hard to drag ourselves away from this mesmerizing stranded whale of a building, but we wended our way uphill through overgrown hawthorn, wych elm, ash and some huge beech trees. We closely examined some hillocks where yellow bird's nest *Monotropa hypopitys*, was found in 2016. This is a strange waxy plant which has no chlorophyll and lives in parasitic association with fungi. It is found in dark shade where nothing else will grow. No we didn't find any on this occasion.

We were now on top of a former spoil heap which has formed an unusual wildflower meadow. The depauperate soil has discouraged grass and there is a colourful flat jigsaw of stunted wildflowers including common knapweed, mouse-ear hawkweed, bird's-foot trefoil, perforate St John's Wort and changing forget me not. Threading our way through more woodland we were surprised to see crowds of the bright yellow flowers of a super wood anemone as well as a profusion of white sedum.

At the very top of the hill was a fence to a view over Ilkeston Beauty Spot, a series of pools in a marshy area which were formerly used for bathing. Silhouetted on the skyline was the Cat and Fiddle Windmill at Dale.

Through deepening gloom, we retreated downhill unable to resist we turned over bricks on the ground, one was stamped 'London Brick Company', it might have fallen from the desperate wreck of the kiln, but most of the bricks bore the legend of 'Oakwell Brickworks'.



Were We the Only Ones Who Missed the Royal Wedding?

On a sunny day we stood at Monsal Head looking down at the Headstone Viaduct built by the Midland Railway, we could see all the way down Monsaldale, a valley of the River Wye which is a special area of conservation in the White Peak of Derbyshire.



The aniseed scent of the ferny leaves and fluffy white umbels of sweet cicely drew us down a steep path, through ancient woodland to the River Wye weir.

After a cold start to the year, the delayed spring flowers now coincided with the arrival of summer so we had a display of flowers which would rival Chelsea flower show. In the cooler microclimate of the woods the scent of bluebells mixed with lily of the valley, there was barren strawberry with wild strawberry, dog violet with wood violet, germander speedwell and wood speedwell, wood avens with water avens. and Goldilocks buttercup. Wych elm and hazel can be tricky to tell apart but the assymetrical base of the sandpaper elm leaf soon gives it away and we were being showered with samara confetti.



The water was crashing over the weir and the dipper was lying low but an unconcerned grey wagtail was fly fishing. Stuart spotted the resident pair of mandarin ducks nesting in the back water which was calm with dignified crack willows shepherding marsh marigolds. Then great delight as a dingy skipper flew onto the path and posed for photographs to the satisfaction of all, although Jake was a little delayed at this point as he prostrated himself, overhanging the river bank for the best shot!

How lovely it was in the dappled shade as we walked beside the river, orange tip butterflies were visiting the palest pink cuckoo flower and Dames violet. Blue flowers of brooklime preceded water forget-me-not, sprays of great bittercress decorated the green and purple spikes of water mint. Under the clean water were filmy phthalo-green streamers, waving whorls of chalk stream water-crowfoot. As the birds sang, Jake described the song of redstart and linnet. We passed the footings of an old bridge, but there were no signs of the ancient routeway. A large moth, a clouded magpie landed nearby and Hannah kindly held it for us to photograph. When we came to an old mill, the rusty wheel abandoned by the wayside, at last we saw a dipper! It stayed in the shade of the far bank but it's white chest clearly bobbed up and down. How do you do, how do you do, how do you do again.

Despite clamours for food we tackled our first upward climb through the primrose and bluebell woods up to Brushfield. Here we picnicked and basked in the full sun again. The turf was covered with tiny wild flowers: Thyme, yellow rock rose and cinquefoil, round rayed flowers of hairy hawkbit, cat's-ear and the lemon-yellow flowers of mouse-ear hawkweed. Claret round heads of salad burnet, heath bedstraw, vernal grass and quaking grass were just starting to flower. Milkwort more pink than blue clashed with the yellow of bird's-foot-trefoil. Dashing in and out of the scene were speckled yellow moths, we don't get those at home!

The fossiliferous dry stone walls by the track are built from locally quarried carboniferous limestone formed from the skeletons and shells of molluscs and corals which have been compressed and hardened to form the great white rock. 350 million years ago the White Peak was a reef in a tropical sea near the equator. It was certainly hot today! We then climbed over a stile to walk through a farmyard, pausing to say hello to the stabled cows as they ate their hay. A vibrant display of meadow saxifrage met us on Brushfield Hough, an undisturbed Bronze Age bowl barrow, a burial mound from 2000BC.

Turning onto a limestone trackway we walked along the valley side. The ancient hill fort on Fin Cop overlooked us from the other side. Fin Cop has a strategic location within the central area of a limestone plateau and has formed a focus for human activity from early pre-history. Mesolithic tools of local chert and Neolithic flint have been found. Bronze age cairns remain. In the Iron Age it was a hill fort. A large bank and ditch have been largely unexcavated. A notable column of grey limestone surrounded by scree is Hob's House which houses the only cave of note at Monsaldale.

Over the wall, a whirlpool of starry white flowers of leadwort or spring sandwort surrounded bell pits and old lead rakes. Exploring this unique habitat, a good site for wall butterflies and dingy skippers, we came across our first early purple orchids, and then there were more, and more and more, but it was getting late, we had to move on.

Another turn down a knobbly and bumpy limestone track passed an old quarry. Ruined buildings, an old chimney and lead spoil, are all that remain of the works. The old Monsaldale Station marked our way onto the Monsaldale Trail, walking in the deep cutting we could see Monsaldale Head in the distance. We paused to cool down in the draught from the railway tunnel before following the steep vertical path to the top. We were so lucky to have the pick of the parking, seats in the tearooms and all the views to ourselves. Were we the only ones who missed the Royal Wedding?

Were We the Only Ones Who Missed the Royal Wedding?



Would You Like to Go on Walk With LENS?

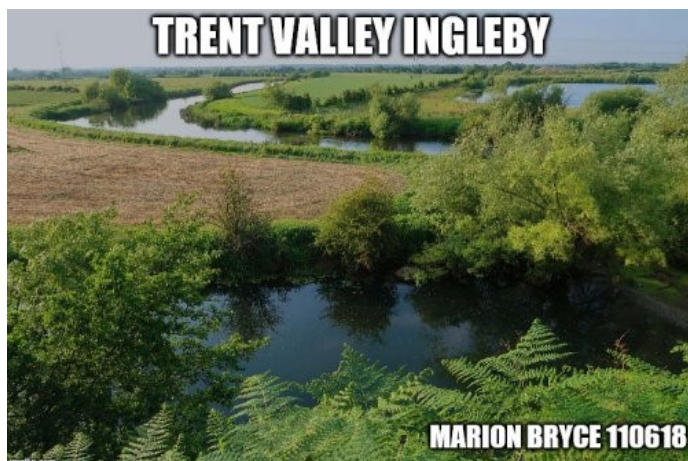
June 11 Monday Anchor Cave Ingleby

Meet 7pm layby on road after John Thompson Inn
DE73 7HW

Approx 2.5miles, very steep hill

Leader Dominic Bryce

This walk started well, it was one of the best evenings, it was my birthday, the sun was shining and we managed to squeeze all of our cars into the unkempt layby on the Ingleby Road. Eleven of us snaked up the slope between the wire fence guidelines. Red and cream papery fruits of common sorrel (*Rumex acetosa*) and tiny sheep's sorrel (*Rumex acetosella*) spangled the ubiquitous wavy hair grass (*Deschampsia flexuosa*). A donkey peeped up at us from the farmhouse below and soon we had a very fine view out over the Trent Valley.

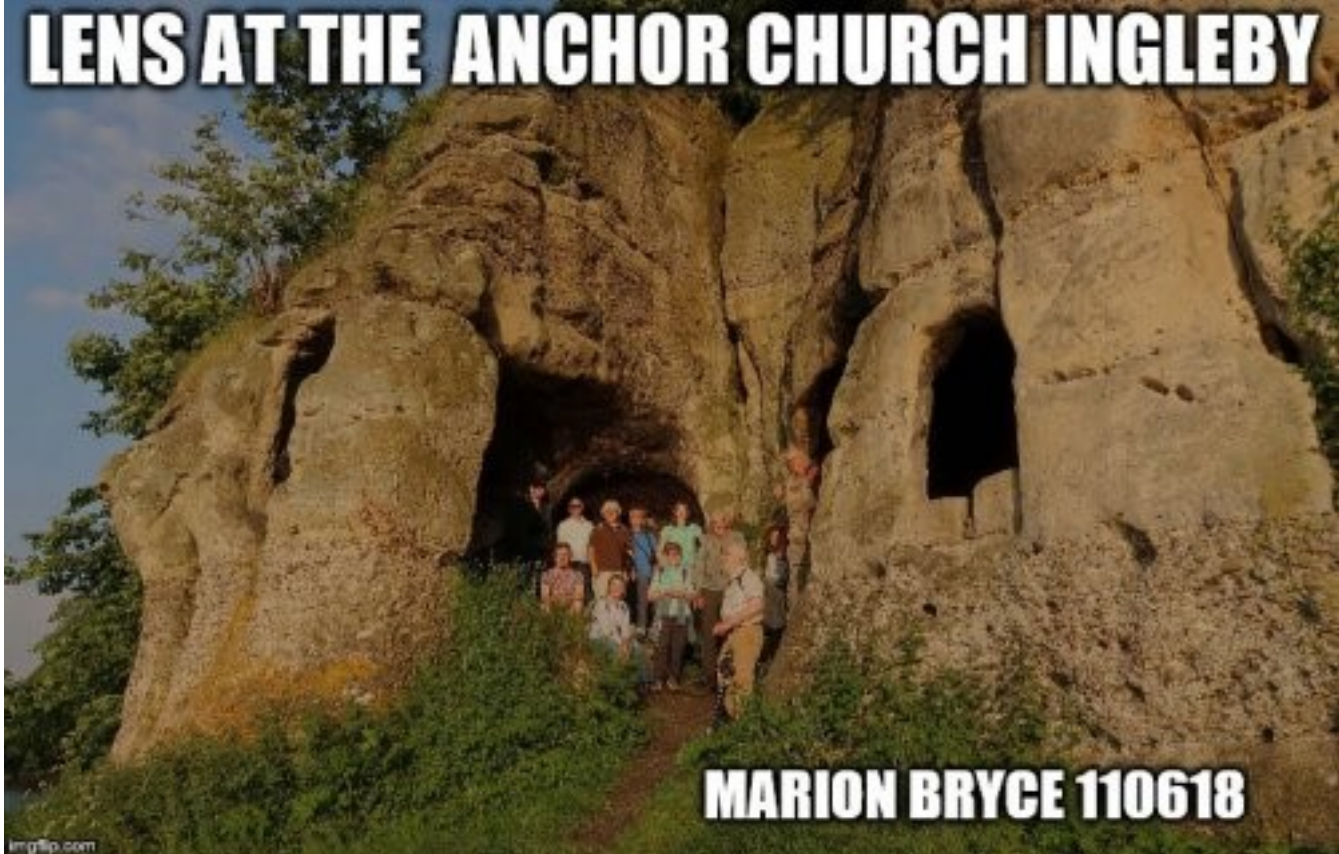


Since 2015 the valley has been subject to massive gravel extraction as Swarkestone Quarry continues to expand. It was a great spot for birdwatching, swift, goosander and cormorant were spotted from our great height looking down onto the new ponds.

Great oaks formed a parade along the edge of the sandstone escarpment, drunken (*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*) stems lolled, laden with swollen green fruit barrels. As we followed a mountain goat path (with missing parts) clinging to the side of the sandstone cliff we admired wood sage (*Teucrium scorodonium*) and the coppery forking flowers of great woodrush (*Luzula sylvatica*) which bowed down beneath large lime trees reaching the bank of the old River Trent.

We relaxed as white flowers of river water-crowfoot sashayed in the river water flow with yellow plastic cups of water lily (*Nuphar lutea*). Marsh marigold (*Caltha palustris*) and water forget-me-not (*Myosotis scorpioides*) crept out of ancient stones. Banded agrions decorated an archway of great clubrush (*Luzula sylvatica*), framing a swan's nest. A scarlet cardinal beetle was photographed, and shining green dock beetles skeletonised the leaves of broad-leaved dock. Meadow rue (*Thalictrum flavum*) was spotted but also the pink policeman's helmet, an unwelcome alien also known as Himalayan balsam (*Impatiens glandifera*), of which there was plenty. The tuneful garden warbler contrasted with the Cetti's staccato insistence. Then stepping stones helped us across the last obstacle to the Grade II listed religious site.

Would You Like to Go On a Walk With LENS?



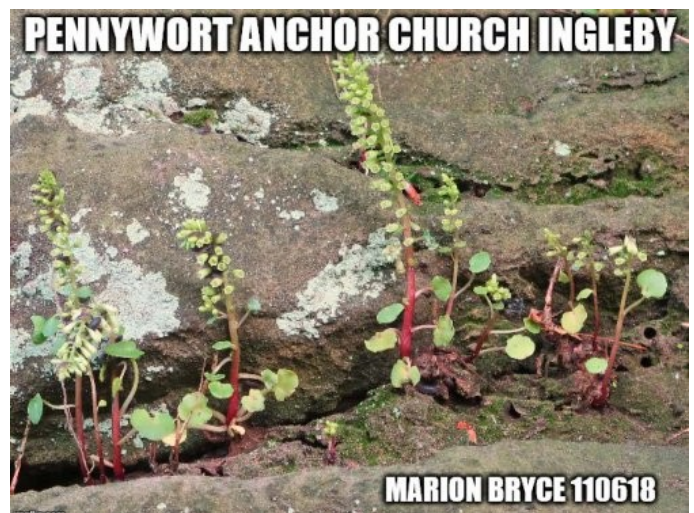
The Anchor Church is a series of caves which have been extended by human intervention to form a crude dwelling place, complete with door and window holes. The name is derived from the term anchorite (meaning to withdraw into the countryside) because it is thought to have been the cell of St Hardulph, a hermit, in the 6th century. In the Middle Ages, the caves were used by a monk named Bernard, doing penance. Records of the caves exist from 1658 when it is mentioned in Repton church records. Sir Francis Burdett of Foremarke Hall enlarged the caves in 1865, fitting a door and a set of steps to the main entrance, forming part of the romantic landscape of Foremarke Hall and its park. Thank you Wikipaedia.

The sandstone outcrop once formed part of the banks of the River Trent and the caves were formed by the action of the river on the rock. The course of the river has altered and left the caves opening onto a backwater pool. It has been designated as both a Regionally Important Geological Site, and as a Local Wildlife Site.

A spike of creamy flowers growing out of the rocks from a rosette of succulent green, dimpled round leaves, was wall pennywort (*Umbilicus rupestris*) also known as navelwort, it is a rare plant in Derbyshire. We didn't try to fish for the shining pondweed (*Potamogeton lucens*), which lurks in the swift flowing brown backwater channel below the rocks. All was good, we enjoyed exploring the caves and we really should have continued and walked back along the road but, we decided to walk back along the top of the

escarpment. The path which had been so obvious a few weeks previously was now rough ploughed and over grown, was it just a common path? Evening scents are strong, we pushed through bracken and foxglove (*Digitalis purpurea*), along a field edge with arable weeds, chamomile (*Anthemis cotula*), field pansy (*Viola arvensis*) and field forget-me-not (*Myosotis arvensis*), back to the lime trees to repeat our outward adventure. We had a mutiny and three of our party made their own way back along the top fields. There were stumbles and mumbles and a nuclear explosion of a sunset as we waited for the whole party to reassemble and 11 of us returned home safely. But would they like to come on another walk with LENS?

Marion Bryce 12 June 2018



Would You Like to Go Pond Dipping With LENS?

July 9 Monday Pond Dipping at Manor Farm LNR

Meet 7pm Car park Manor Farm, High Road, Toton, NG9 6EL Approx 1 mile.



It was another fine evening as we gathered everyone together at the mound of the ancient Toton Manor House where detailed notice boards illustrate the results of the 2014 archaeological dig on the site which located the structural remains and proved the location of the Manor House; investigated structural remains belonging to a mill near the basketball court; traced dry water courses relating to past water management systems and land division, including probable mill leats or races; And plotted the remains of a medieval ridge and furrow field system (for details see Toton Unearthed). This pretty much confirmed what people knew anyway as senior citizens still remember the old Manor Farm House which was knocked down in 1952.

We continued our walk past the site of the old mill, contrasting the closely mown grass of the park with the long grass and scrub of Toton Fields Local Nature Reserve. A large hazel bush and an oak tree grew in an open area but we didn't see any of the purple hair-streaks rumoured to be on site. By the River Erewash the path was well cleared but either side we were hemmed in by blackthorn and blackberry carelessly strewn with white bryony but with no views of the river. At the bridge we paused to look towards Toton Sidings but we didn't see the little egret today. Walking along the ridged, recently declared although well established footpath between Portland Road Toton and Cleveland Avenue Long Eaton we admired the standing deadwood of some old black poplars which had been lopped by Western Power for daring to grow so near the overhead wires. Tramping over the green bridge over the River Erewash overflow we could see great yellowcress, great willowherb and reed canary grass flowering in the water. We were now in Derbyshire and had come to meet our local pond dipping expert, Alan Heath, at Manor Farm Local Nature Reserve. Finding a safe route from the thistle and nettle lined path we pushed through bone dry and crackling tall tufted hair grass, meadow foxtail and timothy grass. Naturally regenerated water plants had grown

in the scrape. Water plantain *Alisma plantago-aquatica* was competing with reedmace *Typha latifolia* to fill the scrape. The two pools were dug by the Environment Agency in 2016, not only to hold back flood water, but also to increase biodiversity in the nature reserve.

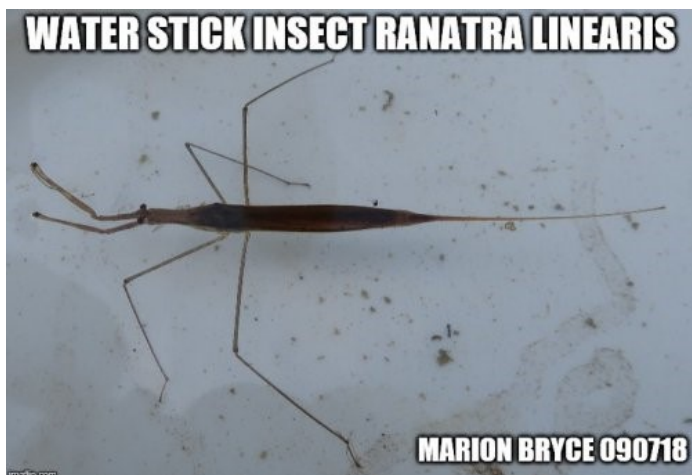
The trilaterally symmetric white flowers of the water plantain which had been feeding hoverflies, bees and butterflies all day had closed for the evening. A few ringlets were still flying, then, to our amazement, Adrian found a mummified pygmy shrew. Which is a very small mammal with a markedly pointed snout and a tail the length of the body. The current heatwave must have curtailed foraging opportunities for the tiny mammal which feeds on insects, arachnids and woodlice as the baked earth is impossible to burrow through.



We set up the pond dipping equipment at the deeper pond, with a table and 2 chairs. The mesh nets were distributed and we set to our pond sampling with gusto. Dark brown diving beetles plunged to the sticky mud through a bubble bursting algal bloom. Skating across the surface of the water were numerous pond skaters in various stages of development and backswimmers energetically rowed under the surface film, one lesser water boatman was caught. Three white collection trays were filled with water and soon we had a haul of many toad and frog tadpoles. The lighter brown frog tadpoles glistening with gold dust. Many toadlets and froglets were hopping around at the water's edge. The newt efts take a lot longer to complete their life cycle and they still had a frill of external gills. There was a strange spotty bladder snail which distinctively had a left handed helical shell. Various teeny transparent larvae were identified as phantom midges using Clegg's Guide to Pond and Streams (BNA) and also PS Croft's AIDGAP book on aquatic invertebrates. The one, very small leech, looked like the invasive species *Barbronia weberi*. This is a successful coloniser possibly introduced by the aquarium trade and was first recorded in the UK in 1986. It co-exists with native species of leech and feeds predominantly on aquatic worms and fly larvae swallowing them completely. Impressively large and

Would you like to go Pond Dipping with LENS?

Boggle eyed, many fearsome dragonfly larvae looked ready to burst out from the pond. I don't know who caught the water stick insect but it was hugely, the star of the show. It really is a very large bug and looks scary with a long, seemingly stinger, of a tail, but this is just a breathing siphon, like a snorkel, watch out for the other end!



At nine thirty we packed up shop and made our way along the unofficial bridle path back over two further bridges to Nottingham Road, opposite the Riding School. It was still bright and light so no chance of bats today, but we leaned over the bridge hoping to see one of the many otters which pass under on their way to the River Trent.

Marion Bryce 9 July 2018

Have You Ever Thought About Being a Butterfly Recorder?

Have you ever thought about being a butterfly recorder? This is how our evening with Ken Orpe started. Ken is the Derbyshire Butterfly Recorder for Butterfly Conservation. He co-ordinates 100 different butterfly transects and keeps everyone up to date with his weekly newsletter.

One of the transects Ken walks is at Aston on Trent Brickyard Plantation a 5a area of secondary woodland plus mixed woodland planting and a wildflower meadow, on the site of a former clay pit and brick works, owned by Derbyshire County Council. Since 2012 it has been managed by FAB, a great acronym for the Friends of Aston Brickyard Plantation!

At the entrance is an old office (very similar to a railway goods office) two large wych elms here are where White Letter Hairstreak butterflies can be seen dog-fighting in June.

Ken proudly showed us a butterfly bank which had been constructed from sub-soil with a topping of

WHAT DID WE FIND?

Lissotriton vulgaris Smooth Newt amphibian
Bufo bufo Common Toad amphibian
Rana temporaria Common Frog amphibian
Iris pseudacorus Yellow Iris flowering plant
Juncus articulatus Jointed Rush flowering plant
Carex hirta Hairy Sedge flowering plant
Juncus inflexus Hard Rush flowering plant
Juncus effusus Soft-rush flowering plant
Sparganium erectum Branched Bur-reed flowering plant
Typha latifolia Bulrush flowering plant
Alisma plantago-aquatica Water-plantain flowering plant
Sialis Indet. Alder Fly insect – alderfly (Megaloptera)
Polygonia c-album Comma insect – butterfly
Libellula depressa Broad-bodied Chaser i- dragonfly (Odonata)
Cloeon nymph Olive insect – mayfly (Ephemeroptera)
Gerris lacustris Common Pondskater – true bug
Ranatra linearis Water Stick Insect insect – true bug
Colymbetes fuscus poss Diving Beetle insect-Beetle
Chironomid larva Non-biting Midge insect-Fly
Sialis larva Alder fly insect-Fly
Chaoborus larva Phantom midge insect-Fly
Erythronium poss *Barbronia stagnalis* or *weberi* Leech Leech
Physa 'acuta' Bladder snail mollusc
Pirata piraticus Pirate Wolf Spider spider (Araneae)
Sorex minutus Eurasian Pygmy Shrew terrestrial mammalPH 7.6

NOTE: Water level very low in both pond and scrape due to lack of rain. Only 0.56 inches in June and none in July so far Alan Heath.

limestone chippings donated by Longcliffe Quarries. It sits at the north end of the meadow and has been planted with cinquefoil for dingy skippers and bird's-foot trefoil for Common Blue and Brown Argus butterflies. A certain amount of ragwort is allowed to flower.

The meadow is managed in two halves, grassland which is cut in alternate halves each September by a reciprocating mower, cuttings are raked off. The other half is a wildflower meadow where knapweed and field bindweed provide a nectar source for many insects. This meadow is kept clear of bramble and encroaching scrub. Derbyshire Wildlife Trust have marked sites for annual quadrat analysis of the species. There are two survey tiles at the edge, which we lifted, to see field vole nests beneath (last time there was a common shrew). Two wonderful carved benches have been donated by a FAB member. Photo posts allow cameras to take a shot from the same position through the seasons.

At the woodland-meadow edge, alder buckthorn has

Have You Ever Thought About Being a Butterfly Recorder?

been planted for brimstone butterflies, the caterpillars are so well camouflaged they don't need to hide and can be seen feeding on the top of the leaves. Specimen trees of Ulmus -Sapporo Gold have also been planted. Arising from a chance crossing of the Japanese and Siberian Elm this has been widely planted due to it's resistance to Dutch Elm Disease, but does it support White-Letter Hairstreak Butterflies? It is now known that white hairstreak caterpillars need elm flowers to eat when young, later moving onto the leaves so an elm tree has to be at least 5 years old before it can be colonised. So watch this space!

the ancient woodland. There is a lot of sycamore in the woods but also some mature oak trees, Ken is hopeful of attracting Purple Hairstreak butterflies. Wending our way to the pond it seemed, out of place. Ken explained that after the brickyards closed in the 1950s, the site had been used as a waste tip. This had been sealed before amenity woodland was planted. Derbyshire County Council are wary of penetrating the impermeable layer so FAB had not been allowed to create a pond at the more obvious damp hollow at the edge of the meadow. Instead, trees had been cleared and the pond dug in a shady area of woodland.

So here we were, back in the car park and Ken was still recruiting. Soon he will feature on the TV programme 'Countryfile' to tell the tale of the return of the Wall Butterfly to Derbyshire, a butterfly many people have not seen this century. Ken says 'For once the North has got one over the South, Derbyshire has got them and we're keeping them to ourselves!'



No cut wood is wasted, so the footpath edge is well defined by staked sticks and brash guiding us to the 'South Pole', where a circle of rustic seats are used for school visits. Autumn seems to have come early this year, evidenced by red berries on the Cuckoopint *Arum maculatum*. We were a bit jealous of FAB's magnificent Bug Hotel and determined to have one at Forbes Hole.

Rides have been created in the adjacent wood which is managed by the Archery Club. There are remains of old plaster pits in this wood and a wharf, where formerly gypsum was quarried and loaded into wagons, to be taken by tramway to the Trent and Mersey canal. The tramway closed about 1925.

We puffed up towards a beaming sun at the top of Aston Hill where we enjoyed a panoramic view across farmland towards Derby and further to Minninglow, Crich Stand and Alport Heights. Ken explained how he had been responsible for an extra curve of the A50 which he had fortunately been able to have re-routed in order to save



Aston Brickyard Plantation 13 August 2018 Marion Bryce



LENS WILDLIFE GROUP

Long Eaton Natural
History Society

LENS Wildlife Group were awarded a grant from Erewash Borough Council via the Mental Health First Aid programme administered by Erewash CVS for publicity items; a new banner, pull up poster and a feather flag.

Our Staff are trained in



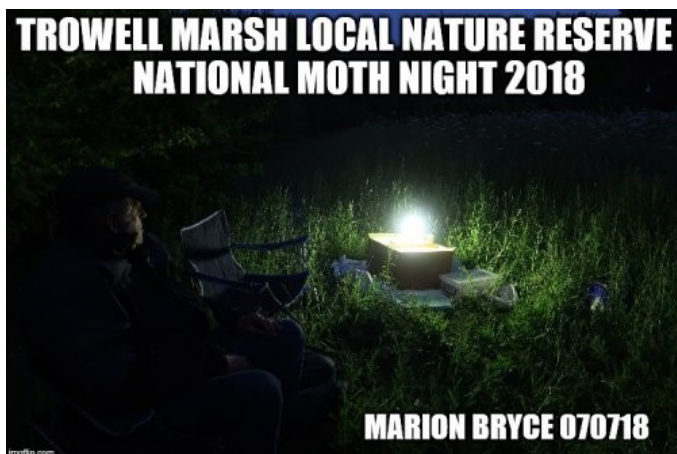
mental health first aid england

National Moth Night 2018 at Trowell Marsh LNR

The focus of National Moth night 2018 was pyralid moths, which includes members of the Pyralidae and Crambidae families. The pyralid group of moths includes some of the largest and most distinctive of 1,600 micro-moths found in the UK. They occur widely, in a multitude of habitats, are often abundant and include day-flying and night-flying moths, which makes them very accessible to everyone. Apparently 'You don't even need a moth trap!'

Trowell Marsh Local Nature Reserve was our chosen site. This Local Nature Reserve is a borrow pit, one of the holes dug in the 'Boards' during the nineteenth century in the construction of the embankment for the Midland Mainland Railway which forms the northern boundary of the reserve. The Boards is a local name for Trowell Marsh, said to be due to the boards laid to pass over the marsh by foot. The Erewash Canal here is known as Stanton Hotwaters as it is used to be warmed by the nearby Stanton Ironworks site. Trowell Marsh has pools at the western end with diverse and uncommon wildlife. Crowded woodland separates the swamp from a floristically rich and marshy meadow.

Despite the rash promise made above, a mesh net search revealed nothing except a few cinnabar moths so we determined to use our moth traps. Two sites were chosen, one on the boundary of the meadow and the wood, the other on the meadow, closer to the railway line.



With the mercury vapour lamps on, we were sitting comfortably in our chairs in the exact centre of England watching two bats fluttering above the trees but the mercury in the thermometer zoomed down and it was cold, 14.2C at 20.00 hrs. A slow stream of moths arrived including common and light emerald whose larvae feed on woody shrubs and trees. Burnished brass, unmistakable, with its shiny brassy yellow markings. It's larva is nettle feeding. We were surprised to attract latticed heaths (3) normally a day flying moth which develops on clover. Our hawk-moth for the night was the Elephant Hawk-moth, which uses Rosebay Willowherb as a larval foodplant. A Peppered Moth was one of the last to arrive, in the white form peppered with black spots, the larva feeds on a variety of trees and shrubs. The highest number of one species was the more notable Beautiful Hook-tip (8), a nationally designated LOCAL species, which feeds on the lichens which

grow on tree branches. By the end of the evening, although 35 species of moth had been identified only three of these were pyralid moths, the Small Magpie (4), the Mother of Pearl (1) the larva of which both feed on nettle and *Eudonia lacustrata*, the Little Grey,(1) which feeds on moss.

The lights were turned off at 00.30 hrs by which time the temperature was below 10C. Brrr!!

Trowell Marsh Moths 16 June 2018

Laspeyria flexula Beautiful Hook-tip
Opisthograptis luteolata Brimstone Moth
Spilosoma lutea Buff Ermine
Diachrysia chrysis Burnished Brass
Tyria jacobaeae Cinnabar
Lomaspilis marginata Clouded Border
Lomographa temerata Clouded Silver
Hemithea aestivaria Common Emerald
Dysstroma truncata Common Marbled Carpet
Korscheltellus lupulina Common Swift
Cabera exanthemata Common Wave
Apamea monoglypha Dark Arches
Deilephila elpenor Elephant Hawk-moth
Axylia putris Flame
Ochropleura plecta Flame Shoulder
Agrotis exclamatoris Heart & Dart
Diarsia mendica Ingrailed Clay
Agapeta zoegana Knapweed Conch
Noctua pronuba Large Yellow Underwing
Chiasmia clathrata Latticed Heath
Apamea lithoxyloa Light Arches
Campaea margaritaria Light Emerald
Oligia strigilis Marbled Minor
Oligia fasciuncula Middle-barred Minor
Pleuroptera ruralis Mother of Pearl
Biston betularia Peppered Moth
Hoplodrina blanda Rustic
Nola cucullatella Short-cloaked Moth
Autographa gamma Silver Y
Xanthorhoe montanata Silver-ground Carpet
Herminia grisealis Small Fan-foot
Idea biselata Small Fan-footed Wave
Anania hortulata Small Magpie
Hypena proboscidalis Snout
Anania coronata Spotted Magpie
Rivula sericealis Straw Dot
Peribatodes rhomboidaria Willow Beauty

We felt that we had not done justice to the Nature Reserve due to the low temperature. So we grabbed another opportunity to run the moth traps. This was three weeks later and we were in the middle of a heat wave. At 20.00hrs the temperature was 23C!

The traps were placed in the same position as last time. The moths were flying and 70 species were identified. There was a surprise visit from a giant click beetle, *Melanotus castanipes* and a tiny Agrimony Plume moth. Again the moth trap near the wood caught two hawk-moths but this time they were Poplar Hawk-moths.

National Moth Night 2018 at Trowell Marsh LNR

The most common species was a pyralid moth, the Mother of Pearl (12) there were also many Little Greys but they were a bit too quick to count. Other pyralid moths were the Garden Pebble whose larvae feed on crucifers, and the beautiful pink and Gold Triangle. The larvae feed in dry vegetable matter, such as haystacks and thatch. Another pyralid, the Bee moth has larvae that feed on the comb inside bee and wasp nests. The pretty Spotted Magpie larvae feed on the young leaves of elder.

Out of the swamp came the Reed Veneer which has distinctively long labial palps, it's caterpillars feed inside the stems of common reed and reed sweet-grass. The Small China-mark is white with a distinctive row of blue-centred black dots on the hindwing. The larvae are semi-aquatic and feed on duckweed. They build floating cases made from fragments of the foodplant. And lastly the tiny Water-Veneer, has fully aquatic larvae which feed on waterweed.

Some notable macromoths were trapped including the Beautiful Hook-tip (again) but I'd never seen Dingy Shears (5) before, they feed on willow. The large Twin-spot Carpet lives in woodland, it's larva feeds on bedstraw. The glamorous glossy white wings and black and white striped legs of the White Satin is beautiful to see. The caterpillar of the White Satin and the Olive both feed on poplar. A large scalloped wing moth with a dark central cross band was a Dark Umber, another moth we had not seen before. Surprisingly when I got home to Long Eaton, there, was another Dark Umber!



The moths were still coming and really we should have stayed all night. When the light was turned off at 00.30 hrs the temperature was still 15.7C but we brushed off all the moths and went home.

Trowell Marsh Moths 07 July 2018

Laspeyria flexula Beautiful Hook-tip
Aphomia sociella Bee Moth
Yponomeuta evonymella Bird-cherry Ermine
Opisthocraptis luteolata Brimstone Moth
Habrosyne pyritoides Buff Arches
Spilosoma lutea Buff Ermine
Eilema depressa Buff Footman
Lomaspilis marginata Clouded Border
Epirrhoe alternata alternata Common Carpet
Eilema lurideola Common Footman
Dysstroma truncata Common Marbled Carpet
Emmelina monodactyla Common Plume
Apamea monoglypha Dark Arches
Philereme transversata Dark Umber
Neosphaleroptera nubilana Deep Brown Shade
Eilema griseola Dingy Footman
Apterogenum ypsillon Dingy Shears
Melanchra persicariae Dot Moth
Xestia triangulum Double-square Spot
Gymnoscelis rufifasciata Double-striped Pug
Cosmia trapezina Dun-bar
Axylia putris Flame
Evergestis forficalis Garden Pebble
Hypsopygia costalis Gold Triangle
Crassa unitella Golden-brown Tubic
Tortrix viridana Green Oak Tortrix
Agrotis exclamationis Heart & Dart
Adaina microdactyla Hemp-agrimony Plume
Scoliopteryx libatrix Herald
Agapeta zoegana Knapweed Conch
Archips podana Large Fruit-tree Tortrix
Xanthorhoe quadrifasciata Large Twin-spot Carpet
Noctua pronuba Large Yellow Underwing
Noctua comes Lesser Yellow Underwing
Eudonia lacustrata Little Grey
Acleris forsskaleana Maple Button
Oligia strigilis Marbled Minor
Oligia fasciuncula Middle-barred Minor
Pleuroptya ruralis Mother of Pearl
Prays fraxinella Ash Bud Moth
Drepana falcataria Pebble Hook-tip
Biston betularia Peppered Moth
Laothoe populi Poplar Hawk-moth
Clepsis consimilana Privet Twist
Chilo phragmitella Reed Veneer
Idaea aversata Riband Wave
Aphantopus hyperantus Ringlet
Crambus perlella Satin Grass-veneer
Odontopera bidentata Scalloped Hazel
Scotopteryx chenopodiata Shaded Broad-bar
Nola cucullatella Short-cloaked Moth
Cataclysta lemnata Small China-mark
Idaea biselata Small Fan-footed Wave
Anania hortulata Small Magpie
Hydrelia flammeolaria Small Yellow Wave
Mythimna impura Smoky Wainscot
Hypena proboscidalis Snout
Abrostola tripartita Spectacle
Anania coronata Spotted Magpie
Ourapteryx sambucaria Swallow-tailed Moth
Oligia latruncula Tawny Marbled Minor
Aethes cnicana Thistle Conch
Aplocera plagiata plagiata Treble-bar

Save Our Sandiacre Beauty Spots

eighteenth century canal bridge. The image was broken by a narrow boat as we walked along the Erewash Canal tow-path to Sandiacre Marsh Wildlife Site.

Colourful canalside flowers captivated our eyes. Glowing orange jewel weed *Impatiens capensis* amid the flounced leaves of Gipsywort *Lycopus europaeus*, Blue Skullcap flowers *Scutellaria galericulata* (the white seeds like little skull caps), ray-less yellow discs of Bur-marigold *Bidens tripartite* and the bright green spiked fruits of branched bur-reed *Sparganium emersum* with it's burnt tipped spear-shaped leaves edging the canal. Water-lily pads *Nuphar lutea* with yellow waxy flowers hid striped pike, purple eyed flowers peeped between the distinctive leaves of arrowhead *Sagittaria sagittifolia* and wow! - the pretty pink umbels of flowering rush *Butomus umbellatus*.



We ducked under branches into the dark marsh, where large willows were gracefully reclining into stagnant pools. A smattering of Himalayan Balsam *Impatiens glandulifera*, that pretty pink, tiresome alien plant, peeped through the fluffy seed-heads of Common Reed *Phragmites australis*. Great Yellowcress *Rorippa amphibia* surrounded large remnant pools covered with Lesser Duckweed *Lemna minuta*. It was very shady but we found Corn mint *Mentha arvensis*, Wild Angelica *Angelica sylvestris*, Skullcap *Scutellaria galericulata* and, a delightful surprise, Enchanter's Nightshade *Circaea lutetiana*. The pale yellow panicle of Wall lettuce *Mycelis muralis* was another plant not often found in our local area.

Helen wanted to know if there were any bats, so one fine evening we went out with our bat detectors. It was a fine warm night and the bats were busy feeding. We walked from Sandiacre Lock Cottage counting the bat chatter picked up on our detectors. Springfield Mill was all lit up. Two large bats nearby were brown long eared bats, 'the quiet bat'. The straight flight of a bat along the surface of the canal may have been a Daubenton's bat. The others were a mixture of common and soprano pipistrelles A Bat Group might carry out a survey in which they would record the bats and give a reliable identification but in all, we counted 50 bats, with a higher concentration in the area of Sandiacre Marsh.

Helen paid for Derbyshire Wildlife Trust to carry out a survey of the Wildlife Site which showed there were three species of amphibian, common frog, common toad and smooth newt. Although grass snakes have been reported from nearby at Bridge No 12, including a record from LENS Dave Gell, none were found by the survey team.

It would be such a shame to lose these lovely sites with their fragile wildlife communities. Helen feels the proposed new flyover for the HS2 train might detract from the recuperative powers of the serene 18th Century landscape, so needed by the many people who use the Nutbrook Trail and the Erewash Valley Trail cycling and hiking links to 'Get Away From It All'.

In Autumn the HS2 Environmental team joined us in a walk around Sandiacre Marsh, we were able to highlight the local wildlife site on the HS2 plans. The team showed a real appreciation of the biodiversity value of Sandiacre Marsh and hope to use the opportunity provided by HS2 to improve the amenity value of the area.

Marion Bryce 13 September 2018



Identiplant

The Botanical Society of the British Isles and the Field Studies Centre have developed a Plant Identification Course for beginners in serious botany.

Is it an Ox-tongue?
Or a Sowthistle or a Hawkweed?
Or a Hawkbit or maybe even a Hawks-beard?
Do you want to be able to identify a wildflower correctly, to use a flora and follow a botanical key?

This course could be the answer. This is a distance learning course with a difference – course units are delivered online but you practise real plant identification throughout the summer with the support of a tutor.

<https://identiplant.co.uk/plant2015wp/>

The course consists of 15 units delivered at fortnightly intervals

It starts in February and finishes in August, tracking the flowering season

Each unit concludes with a short question sheet, requiring you to find and examine wild plants

You have your own tutor, who will correct your answers and give advice.

There are no grades or numerical marks.

The course can be completed in one year but you may continue into a second year if you wish.

YOU WILL NEED TO GO OUT TO FIND WILD PLANTS, BUT ONLY COMMON ONES



Perennial Sowthistle Erewash Canal 27 August 2018

Photo credit Marion Bryce

MHFA Information Event by Roe Gardiner

Everybody was welcome at the Erewash Mental Health Partnership INFORMATION EVENT organised by Catriona Paterson Development Worker and held at Erewash Voluntary Action Granville Avenue.

This was a drop in information event to showcase what community groups and organisations are available in the Erewash Area including groups with trained Mental Health Champions. Attendees were able to find out about volunteering opportunities. Have a go at creative activity and enjoy a cup of tea or coffee, cake and biscuits and fresh fruit.

LENS Mental Health Champion Roe with Dave Gell presented LENS. The

event was well attended by exhibitors and visitors and they felt that it was a really worthwhile experience. They had plenty of opportunity to look around and chat to people representing a variety of different organisations working to provide care in the local community.

Interest in the LENS display board and a magnetic board butterfly quiz was very encouraging with a steady stream of visitors throughout the 2½hrs. It is to be hoped that attendance at this event has raised LENS public profile and provided us with a number of useful contacts.



MHFA Open Day April 2018

Photo credit Roe Gardiner

Toad Rescue

Stuart Gilder organised a fourth year of Toad Rescue at Church Wilne. The patrols started at dusk and continued for approximately 1.5hrs each evening along Wilne Lane from St Chads to the Reservoir entrance.

The temperature was very variable and the toad migration was spread over a number of weeks.

Patrols took place from the 10th March to 16th April with the temperature no different at the end than the beginning (12C).

We had to wear gloves and transport the amphibians in buckets. 128 toads were helped across the road, they have to be helped otherwise they stop in the nearest puddle.

Altogether there were 71 males and 24 females. Unfortunately 27 were

killed. In addition 27 frogs were rescued.

The 14 March, 22 March and the 6th and 7th of April were the evenings with the highest counts but the highest of all, 50 were counted on the 15th April.

These figures are low compared to 2017 when patrols took place from March 12th-March 31st with 246 toads rescued and 47 toads killed with most toads counted on the 18th and 19th when the temperature rose to 14C for 2 consecutive days with rain.

Although it is dark and wet for these patrols we quite often see bats and hear owls calling and this year a little owl was a regular sight on Wilne Lane.



Common Toad

Photo credit Marion Bryce

LENS Long Eaton Natural History Society Wildlife Group

CONTACTS

Lens Chairman
Stuart Gilder 07904169987

Lensnaturalhistory@gmail.com

LENS Wildlife Group Winter Programme

- 12 November Jack Perks The Natural History of Freshwater Fish
- 10 December Fay Blackburn Quiz and Social
- 14 Jan 2019 Dr Robert Tansey The British Naturalists Association
- 11 Feb 2019 Anne Farnsworth Helping Hedgehogs
featuring Mr Prickles
- 11 March 2019 Tony Slater Adventures Photographing Birds

Indoor meetings start at 7.00pm in the Long Eaton.

Cost £1.50 for members, £2.50 for visitors.



Brown Argus at Forbes Hole LNR

Photo credit Alan Heath

We would like you to join LENS in our practical conservation activities

Forbes Hole Local Nature Reserve, Fields Farm Road, Long Eaton NG10 1FX

Wear old clothes and boots and bring gloves and a flask

10am Mondays

See you there!

Thanks to all contributors and Alan Heath, Stuart Gilder, Helen Thompson, Roe Gardiner and Marion Bryce, for photographs used in this bulletin. Send articles and photographs to Lensnaturalhistory@gmail.com Deadline for next LENS bulletin March 2019 Bulletin Editor Marion Bryce

Membership Renewal Form

I would like to be a member of LENS Wildlife Group

Name _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Tel no _____

Email _____

I enclose a cheque/postal order for £10.00

The annual subscription entitles members to attend meetings at £1.50 per session.

I agree that LENS can keep my name on a database but will delete it on request.

Please return completed form to

LENS Wildlife Group Hon Treasurer, Roe Gardiner
136 Breedon Street, Long Eaton NG10 4FE



Little Bluebell Wood is a 0.81 Ha remnant of Ancient Woodland in Risley once part of Hopwell Forest. Bluebells die if trampled, so defined paths have been laid, using cut boughs of sycamore which does not easily decompose. The wood is easily accessible and owner Pat Ancliff would like everyone to enjoy this fragrant essence of pure English Countryside.