



Preston Environmental Group
caring for our surroundings

NEWSLETTER

Spring 2017

No 3

OUR YEAR AT A GLANCE

Sat 30 January

PEG Walk - Alderminster

Sat 6 February

Bulb planting in the
Churchyard

Sat 27 February

PEG Walk - Illmington

Saturday 5 March

Clean for the Queen

Sat 19 March

PEG Walk - Paxford

Sat 7 May

PEG Walk - Bluebells at
Badby

Wed 25 May

Bat walk and Talk in
Preston

Sat 4 June

Visit to Otmoor RSPB
Reserve

Sat 26 June

PEG Walk - Moreton - in - Marsh

Sun 10 July

Moth Traps and Bacon
Baps

Sat 30 July

PEG Walk - Adlestrop

Sat 20 August

PEG Walk - Kenilworth

Sat 24 September

PEG Walk - Stratford

Sat 29 October

PEG Walk - Lawsonford

Sat 19 November

PEG Annual Lecture - Jenny
Steel My Year of Wild Life
Gardening

Sat 26 November

PEG Walk - Snowhill

Dear Member, the PEG committee would like to welcome you to a review of last year's activities and tell you what we hope to be doing in 2017.

EVENTS & PROJECTS IN 2016

Saturday 6th Feb

We started the year off by planting a small area of the church yard with 200 snowdrops and 200 wild daffodils. The snowdrops have put on a bit of a show this spring and the daffodils are just starting to appear. We hope they get better and better with each coming spring.



EVENTS & PROJECTS IN 2016

5 March

Clean for the Queen

The year started with 'Clean for the Queen' which was a national event. PEG members got stuck in and managed to collect an amazing amount of rubbish. Many members are continuing to pick up litter from our roads.



25 May

Bat walk and Talk in Preston

May saw us up in the church learning about bats. The Warwickshire Bat group gave us a very informative talk dispelling many commonly held beliefs. Then we went out around Preston with bat detectors to listen out for the bats around us. It wasn't ideal weather but we all heard evidence of bats which we couldn't always see in the evening sky.



10 July

Moth Traps and Bacon Baps

Ron and Di hosted a very successful moth trap and bacon bap morning event. David Brown, who is a local expert, came the night before, set his traps and then we were able to see the moths the following morning. We were all amazed by the variety, beauty and interesting descriptive names from heart and dart to lunar spotted pinion. David identified in excess of forty different species which sounds good but there are potentially around six hundred in Warwickshire, many more than butterflies.



EVENTS & PROJECTS IN 2016 - CONTINUED

19 November

PEG ANNUAL LECTURE

Jenny Steele was our guest speaker in November. She gave us a useful overview of her work in wildlife conservation, wildflower growing and the changes she has made to her own garden in Shropshire. Her website is a good contact point for keeping up with developments.

<http://www.wildlife-gardening.co.uk>



OTHER THINGS IN 2016

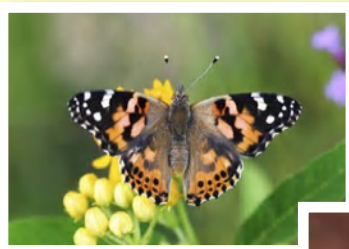
We have at last submitted our habitat survey and are hoping for some feedback at some stage. It was quite an epic project but served to teach us all a lot about environmental management and the importance of monitoring changes.



The wildflower patch by the road sign has been added to with plug plants and we will have to wait and see what appears. The patch in the churchyard has been left to its own devices. It had quite a lot of colour last spring so it will be interesting to see what happens there.



We managed to submit a butterfly survey but it was a bit patchy as were the butterfly sightings, mainly due to the poor weather conditions.



PEG WALKS IN 2016

Our regular walks continue to be an important part of our group activities. Last year saw outings to areas close – Alderminster, Stratford and Ilmington, slightly further afield to Snowhill, Moreton-in-Marsh, Lowsenford and a historical flavour thanks to Mick and Ron to Kenilworth. We also had Ron to thank for the stunning bluebell walk at Badby and another walk with a poetic theme; Brock and others celebrated Edward Thomas with a walk at Adlestrop. Countryside, culture, history and exercise....it doesn't get much (or some would say any) better!

Saturday 30 Jan - Alderminster



Saturday 7 May - Bluebells at Badby

A spectacular display of bluebells followed by lunch at The Windmill Inn



Saturday 27 Feb - Ilmington



Saturday 19 March - Paxford



PEG WALKS IN 2016

Saturday 4 June - Otmoor RSPB Reserve

Our June walk was to Otmoor RSPB reserve. We had two very knowledgeable volunteer guides and were lucky enough to see and hear a Turtle Dove and a Cuckoo, see Reed Buntings and many water fowl.



Our Guides



The Habitat



The best spot of the day. Sally with Dr Mark Avery who we were lucky enough to bump into on our visit. He is one of Britain's most famous bird watchers, and an author, campaigner, blogger and former director of conservation at the RSPB.

PEG WALKS IN 2016

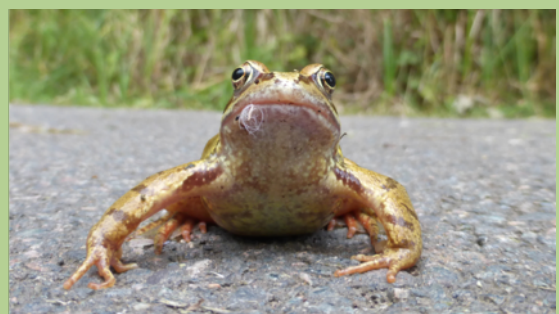
Saturday 26 June - Moreton - in - Marsh



Saturday 30 July - Adlestrop and Edward Thomas



Saturday 20 August - Kenilworth



A little fellow we met on the walk

PEG WALKS IN 2016

Saturday 24 September - Stratford-upon-Avon



PEG WALKS IN 2016

Saturday 29 October - Lowsonford



Saturday 26 November - Snowhill



2017 - THE YEAR SO FAR

NEW HOMES ERECTED IN PRESTON

Our treasurer, Phil, told us there was a bit of money in the coffers so we decided that it would be put to good use in providing some nest boxes for our local birds. Mike Hirst helped to source some marine ply and Brock kindly built some very desirable residences. At the last count we had 18 boxes, including two very impressive tawny owl boxes one sited in the wood opposite Ron & Di's cottage and the other in the churchyard. Most of the boxes are in Preston but there have been some more distant, Wimpstone, Ettington, Shipston-on-Stour and more recently one has gone with Mike Hirst to Cambridgeshire. Please keep us up to date with any sightings of occupancy.



THE BROCKS LEARN NEW SKILLS

The Brocks have been off on a hedge laying course sponsored by Warwickshire Wildlife Trust funded by the water vole conservation fund. A very cold weekend but good fun and we felt very proud of our finished Warwickshire bullock hedge!



GODS OWN ACRE

Phil Grellier is going forward with some plans to make the churchyard more wildlife/ wildflower friendly and may need to co-opt PEG members help with clearing cut grasses

PEG WALKS 2017 - DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

DO YOU KNOW A GOOD WALK?

Our aim is to have a PEG walk on the last Saturday of each month. See the list to the right. We still have some available dates to be filled, so we'd be delighted if any of you have a walk that you could share. Contact Ron - ronhoe@me.com or Margarete - brockandrat11@gmail.com

Saturday 25 Feb
Saturday 1 April
Saturday 29 April
Saturday 30 May
Saturday 24 June
Saturday 29 July
Saturday 23 Sep
Saturday 28 October
Saturday 25 November
Saturday 30 December

Otter Survey - Dorridge - Ron
Welcome Hills - Ron
Bluebell Walk - Ron
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Ottmoor RSPB reserve - Guided walk to see the starling Murmuration
Christmas Walk



Ideas required please for our autumn speaker.

