



Churchyard Bulbs & Wildflower Beds

In February the snowdrop and wild daffodil bulbs arrived. A group of us planted one hundred of these on a sunny morning on the slope in front of the church. Although they may take a few years to establish, we should see a reasonable show next January and February, but this will be better each year.

At our committee meeting it was decided to increase the size of the wildflower bed near the village sign, so the same group planted out plug plants of several native species including yellow rattle. This plant lives on the roots of grasses and so keeps the grass down a little so the flowers have more of a chance of survival. There has been a good display so far, but this project will take time to establish.



CLEAN FOR THE QUEEN

In March PEG joined a national project to pick up litter in the local area. We decided to try to clear the approach roads into Preston and filled eight bin bags with all sorts of litter mainly thrown out of people's cars.



Bat Night

Warwickshire Bat Group came to visit us on the 25th May and we met in the church for a lecture on bats, and particularly British Bats. Trisha gave a very interesting presentation including a photo of a bat the size of a man – luckily not one of our native species but one from South America. We learnt about the habitats and life cycles of bats, then, with the help of the Bat Group, we went on safari to see and listen for evidence of these amazing mammals. The evening was really cold and so not perfect for bats, but with the aid of sonic detectors we heard four different types of bat, including pipistrelle and Noctule. It really was fascinating to listen to the noise from the detectors spreading along our group as the bats flew overhead. A very memorable experience.



Membership

Our Treasurer Phil tells me that fees are due now. The annual fee to be a member of PEG is £5 and includes the following benefits:

- Monthly walk
- Reduced price for PEG events
- Access to a library of reference books
- Helping to fund local projects like the wildflower beds
- Networking with other groups

In early June, we visited Otmoor RSPB reserve near Oxford. This is a wonderful place and as soon as we arrived we heard cuckoos and turtle doves. Both these birds are becoming increasingly rare and are both on the 'red list' meaning they are endangered. Our guides were excellent and extremely knowledgeable pointing out many things we simply would have missed, like a 'drumming' snipe. We saw and heard many other species of bird and could appreciate how important a reserve like Otmoor is when habitats are under such pressure.



PEG Walks

The monthly walks continue to be very popular and we have enjoyed both local landscapes and those further afield. We have walked near Ilmington, Ebrington, Moreton and Badby Woods Northamptonshire, for the bluebell walk. These walks are usually between three to four miles and moderate to easy walking. They usually end up in a pub for a sandwich and give us all the chance to get out and appreciate the landscape, watch out for interesting flora and fauna and catch up with friends. The next walk is going to be near Adlestrop and details will follow very shortly.



Moth Traps and Bacon Baps

Footman, heart and dart, grey dagger, leopard, burnished brass and magpie, these were just some of the 45 species of moths we identified on Sunday morning at the Moth Trap & Bacon Baps morning. Our expert Dave Brown, from the Butterfly Conservation Trust had set the humane traps the previous night and on opening them we discovered the variety and beauty of the moth world. We even discovered one moth, the angle tipped peacock, a species which has not been recorded in Warwickshire before, (we won't worry about the county borders though). This PEG event was a big success and set in Ron and Di's gorgeous garden the refreshments were pretty good too. Many thanks to all who came, but especially to Ron for having the initial idea.

