



A Happy New Year to all PEG Members:

The story so far and what we will be doing in 2016...

Habitat Survey

In March 2015, we attended our training day to enable us to carry out a survey for Warwickshire Wildlife Trust which was led by Chris Talbot. This equipped us to undertake the survey and we started the work in June.

Armed with reference books, cameras and binoculars we went off to see what was around. The results of this work are currently being collated and should be online to look at in the next couple of months.



Wildflower Beds

In April, several PEG members dug two wildflower beds, one at the entrance to the village and one in the new cemetery. A mix of seeds was sown and we waited, and waited until seedlings began to appear. By mid-June they were looking good with a mix of annuals including poppies and cornflowers. This was an experiment to see what could be achieved and to gauge the reaction of villagers. We plan to extend the bed by the sign this year.



PEG Walks

We started a monthly walk with the aim of getting out into the countryside and seeing what plants, birds and animals were about. We saw deer, hares, wildfowl, bluebells and orchids to name just a few. One of the highlights of the year was the Laurie Lee walk in Slad. This was a perfect day and we were guided by an orchid expert to see many different species during the day, plus some poetry too. Thanks to Ron for organising this and to Chris for driving the minibus.



Education

As we are all keen to learn and increase our knowledge of the natural history around us we have been to several workshops including 'Identifying Winter Trees', a 'Fungi Foray' plus lectures on barn owls, hedgehogs and grasses. We put on a very successful event in the village hall when Brigit Strawbridge came to talk to us about bees and their plight. It was very well attended and not only did we learn a lot about bees, but we also made some money for PEG funds. We have also taken part in the Great Garden Bird Watch and the Butterfly count.



Other good things

We have been on two farm visits with Will Spencer to see the changing seasons on the farm. On the second visit Will showed us a harvest mouse nest. Following on from this, a researcher from Warwickshire Wildlife Trust has started a harvest mouse survey. Some of us, at very short notice, were lucky enough to help with this project and found several more nests of this lovely, yet endangered species. There have been some successful barn owl nests in 2015 and the ringing group came out to weigh and ring the chicks.



The Harvest Mouse Survey



2016: Important dates for your Diary

PEG Walks

Date	Details	Organiser
Saturday 30th January	Either a walk to Alderminster (The Bell) or to Clifford (New Inn)	To be decided
Saturday 27th February	Ilmington	Mike
Saturday 19th March	Paxford	Phil & Caroline
Saturday 30th April	Bluebell Walk	Ron & Di
Saturday 4th June	Otmoor RSPB Reserve. Guided walk with an expert	Sally
Saturday 2nd July	Burford	Mick & Sally
Saturday 30th July	Adlestrop	Brocky & Mrs B
Saturday 20th August	Kenilworth (hopefully, including a tour of the castle)	Mick & Ron
Saturday 24th September	A walk to Stratford	Roger & Jo
Saturday 29th October	To be decided	Rosemary & Paul
Saturday 26th November	To be decided	Any volunteers?

* Please note some dates have changed & some new ones have been added. There may be other changes.

Bat Walk & Talk

Wednesday, 25th May, 8:30 pm
Preston Village Hall

In association with
 **Warwickshire Bat Group**

A late evening talk about British bats followed by a walk around Preston to see what we can find. The Warwickshire Bat Group will be bringing radar equipment so we can listen to sounds bats make. Light refreshments, £4 for PEG members £5 others. Please let Sally know as soon as possible if you are interested in coming to this event as there will only be twenty places available. Currently there are six definite bookings and its only January!

Moth Traps & Bacon Baps

Sunday, 10th July 2016 10am
Lower Cottage, Preston on Stour
In association with

 **Butterfly Conservation**
Saving butterflies, moths and our environment

Discover the moths of Preston on Stour. Come along and join Dave Brown the Moth Conservation Officer for the Warwickshire Branch of Butterfly Conservation to discover what marvellous moths have been drawn into the traps set up overnight in Ron & Di's Garden. Price: £4.00 for PEG members £5.00 for non-members (includes a Bacon Bap, Cup of tea and a donation to Butterfly Conservation).

 giving nature a home
30th-31st January
www.rspb.org.uk/Birdwatch



Big Garden Birdwatch

Please take part in this is you can, and we can share our results