

In this time of lockdown we thought it might be appropriate if we kept in touch with our members

This 'newsletter' could serve as a place where members can share their thoughts, tell others how you are spending your time and recommend activities, books, radio programmes etc. in relation, of course, to all things concerning fauna and flora.

Has anyone seen anything they can't identify, something they have seen for the first time, any species in abundance or decline common or rare?

Any new skills being learnt - for example birdsong or invertebrate, plant identification?

Read a good book lately or found a good website? There are so many websites with suggestions on how to connect with nature from quizzes to citizen science projects.

If you feel you would like to share your observations, experiences or thoughts please e - mail lindaclark_888@yahoo.com and we'll do our best to include them in the next newsletter depending on how long normal activities are suspended.



This bee house was installed in 2019 on top of my flat garage roof. 'Wild' bees took up residence in July 2019. Now April 2020 the hive is again showing great signs of activity. Linda Clark.

Book recommendation.

[The Garden Jungle - Dave Goulson.](#)

The title belies what this book contains. As always Mr Goulson's writing is so readable. Every page is packed with information and knowledge, mainly about our invertebrates - a real treat

We are inviting all our members to enter the **GREAT RNHS Garden Wildlife challenge**. You can keep a note of all wild species that visit, reside in, fly over your garden between 1st April and the end of June. Look under stones, peer in the leaf litter, look in your pond and record everything and the date on which you saw it - perhaps keep a little notebook by the kitchen window or door. Then at the end of June put them all down on paper or e mail them to Linda Biddle or Peter Scott. The person with the largest species list will be the winner and I'm sure we'll find a suitable prize in July - or when we are able to resume our normal meetings.

At present we are only able to send this newsletter to our members for whom we have e mail address's. If you don't wish to receive this please let Linda Clark know. lindaclark_888@yahoo.com. If you know anyone who may wish to see the same please forward this to them or ask them to contact Linda and she will add them to the list.

Have you seen a swallow heard a cuckoo smelt a bluebell? We'd love to hear about all these observations and any other aspects of the natural world that have given you pleasure in these unusual times.

I love to see the clear blue skies with any traces of traffic only the birds.



Dock bug Wing allotments. July 2019.

Please don't forget to keep sending your records in to our recorders. Our new Butterfly recorders are waiting, there are lots of butterflies around at the moment. Any insect including bee records can be sent to Jayne Walker who would gladly appreciate any records in this under recorded taxa.

Remember also Reptiles, Birds, Mammals. Not forgetting bats, sightings, even if they cannot be identified, Jenny Harris our fantastic bat recorder says that it's very useful to know where they are flying.

Check our website for details on how to submit records.

While we have the opportunity we would like to introduce current committee members. For any new members it maybe useful for them to know who is who. So here's a little piece, written by herself, about our present Chairperson, Linda Biddle.

My parents both loved the outdoors and were interested in wildlife, and on compulsory walks we were instructed on what we saw and heard, but like most children took little notice! It must have laid the foundations for learning as an adult though. The interest in mammals came about when Anthony and I worked together (for Min.of Ag) when some precious plants used for an experiment were chewed off, and we caught the offending bank vole in a live trap. Then we both started watching badgers on Charnwood forest, which we did for a couple of years before moving to Stamford.

We joined the RNHS in 1970/71 when a course of meeting was held in Oakham about the "Empingham reservoir" as Rutland water was then titled. We were lucky to learn about Natural History from members of the RNHS like George Sellars, Mrs Janet Buchanan, Jean Green, Graham Worrall, of course our wonderful Phil, and many others, but really our indoor and outdoor meetings have been a perfect opportunity to learn about our countryside and its wildlife.

I hope that by protecting the environment to the best of our ability and passing on our enthusiasm and knowledge to others we will be able to ensure that our children and grandchildren will also be able to appreciate the wonders of the natural world.



Linda Biddle in one of her natural habitats.



Here's an example of Linda's continuing enthusiasm evidenced by her account of a recent walk.

'We had a brilliant walk yesterday! The wood was in full song and bloom. The dogs ran off and Ant had a phone call. I stood and listened to a great spotted woodpecker drumming, nuthatch calling and willow warbler and chiff chaffs doing their stuff. We then walked down a ride and saw lots of newly opened greater stitchwort, and anenomes mostly white but there was one patch of pink ones and ramsons flowering among the bluebells and lesser celandines and finally we came across a patch of early purple orchids - magic! It made me feel thrilled to be alive and to be able to listen look and appreciate it all, and so sorry for those who can't - or who have no idea of what they are missing!'