

## Ryburgh Wildlife Group December Newsletter

This month's newsletter is slightly shorter and earlier than normal. I'm away for nearly a fortnight now so I thought I'd follow the advice of the Royal Mail and post early for Christmas.

During November Steve Cale gave us a wonderful, illustrated talk on the first 25 year of the Ryburgh Wildlife Group. Thank you, Steve, and to the those who helped arrange it. Thank you too to those of you who brought material and help create our latest bug hotel at the community café. If we were playing Monopoly Great Ryburgh with its two bug hotels would be one of those places you avoided landing on at all cost, otherwise the rent would bankrupt you. I have to say I don't think I've ever played a game of Monopoly where there was winner. The games always got ended by tea or dinner or something.

I would like to thank you all for renewing your member to the group. We have a strong membership which is fantastic. The committee is truly grateful for your continued support and commitment financially and in time, and it will allow the committee to keep looking for new ways to improve our local wildlife. I'm sure that looking forward to the next 25 years will be one of the items on the agenda for the AGM.

The past few weeks has been a rather hectic time for me, so it was a real pleasure to sit down last Sunday and binge watch David Attenborough's Planet Earth III. It was a real mix of emotions. It was fascinating watching the tree frogs mating and laying eggs some which get hoovered up by fish, and there is still enough left to sustain the population. And then it was very sad watching chimpanzees forced to cross recently made roads and come into close proximity to humans in order to find food.

Watching and listening to skeins of our winter geese going over the village is a special privilege. I was in Holt recently when a large and very vocal skein of pink footed geese flew over and several people stopped and watch them. I'm not supposed to know, but Santa is bringing me a copy of Nick Acheson's book The Meaning of Geese. I shall look surprised when I open it.

Although winter birds are well and truly with us, I heard and saw a large flock of Fieldfare flying over, I still live in hope that a few Waxwings might take a diversion and eat berries in Norfolk. They seem to have arrived in Yorkshire and Essex but somehow missed Norfolk. Either that or I've missed the notification. I have seen Waxwings several years ago in Barnsley. A group of went to a café for breakfast and commented on what we thought were just rather odd shaped Starlings. It wasn't until I dug out a pair of binoculars from the car that we could see they were Waxwings. Next morning they'd gone.

Last month I mentioned that our website had gone AWOL. Good news, our IT man has found it, and the site is now back up alive and kicking, with additional security to prevent unwanted cyber attacks.

**Dates for your 2024 diary:**

As we close 2023 the committee is still looking at events for next year. Some of the ideas being discussed include a wild goose walk, a talk, and possibly a trip to Dersingham Bog. More details will follow.

One definite event is the group's AGM. This will be held on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> February and it will be followed by a quiz. Please make a note in your 2024 diaries.

I hope you have a great Christmas and New Year. I look forward to seeing you at the AGM and quiz.

Ho ho ho!

**David**

Membership Secretary