

## Ryburgh Wildlife Group July Newsletter

1<sup>st</sup> July was party time. Around 40 people joined in the group's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary BBQ and I think we all had a good time. A big thank goes to Gill for organising the event, and for helping Jane and Mike in preparing the salads and the cooking of the food - if McDonalds open a new branch in Fakenham, they'll be first in the job queue.



A big thank also goes to Ian, Barley and Mike in making the bug hotels and to Barley for preparing the quiz. We'd like to put several of these bug hotels around the village so we may well be calling for volunteers to help do some construction work.



Another big thank you goes to Neil who made sure that we all enjoyed the event safely, and for holding on to the gazebo in the wind while more tent pegs were sourced.

We must also thank Roger for bringing along some of the moths that he had collected the previous night. It's amazing to think that we have over 26 species of moths flying around the village. I personally find the names rather confusing. I know in the butterfly world we have Marbled Whites which are actually part of the "browns" family but Roger showed us specimens of both Bright-line Brown-eye and Brown-line Bright-eye moths - need I say more?

Long term supporter Tom Cook wasn't able to join us but kindly presented us some bottles of wine to help with the celebrations.

Lastly a big thank you to you, our members, for coming along. It would have been a lonely afternoon without you.

Along with bug hotels, as a group we are interested in building nest boxes for next year. I'm sure we will be looking for volunteers soon - man in a shed day, or should I say "person in a shed day" perhaps. Watch this space.

Although Roger didn't bring a specimen along, Carole, one of our members was very pleased to see that she'd got a Hummingbird Hawk moth on her hanging baskets. Liz, another member saw one on Sunday in her garden too - maybe the same one. They are wonderful insects.

I recently had a long weekend in the Cotswolds area and it gave me the chance to learn yet another new plant. I thought it was some form of Burnet so I searched my PlantNet app and found the app called it Burnet Bloodwort (*Sanguisorba officinalis*). To me that wasn't a British sounding name, so when I got the chance, I looked up *Sanguisorba officinalis* in my Simon Harrap flower book - Great Burnet.

Speaking about plants and flowers, it does seem that many places and organisations have reduced their mowing regimes and letting nature control again. Kings College Cambridge have created a wildflower meadow, <https://www.kings.cam.ac.uk/digitalweek/wildflower-meadow-tour> and last night while I was in London I saw several buildings in the Whitehall and Horse Guards area, that had flower meadows with ox-eyed daisies, knapweed, docks and teasels. So very different to the manicured lawns they once were. There may be many more public buildings with manicured lawns still to be left to nature, but it does feel like this particular wildlife argument is hitting home.

When we talk about pollinator pathways, I'm sure most of us will immediately think of bees, but here's an example a hoverfly doing a bit of pollination. I just love the difference in size between the flower and the insect.



To wrap up on a very different note.

Besides wildlife one of my other hobbies is morris dancing and later this month the morris sides I, and Julie (my wife) are involved with, are coming to Great Ryburgh. If you fancy coming along to watch us dance on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> we will be in Fakenham at the Red Lion lounge from 9.30am, the Chequers PH at Binham from 11.00am, Wells (Staithe Street) from 12.30pm, and the Crown PH Sheringham from 3.30pm.

On the Sunday we will be dancing outside the shop in Great Ryburgh from 11.00am, and then inside St Andrews church at 12noon. The church has been fantastic in helping arrange this weekend, and all profits from the weekend will be going towards the £26,000 target for repairs to the church tower. I hope you will come along and watch us somewhere.

Sneak preview of the sides on tour.

Greensleeves Morris Men from Wimbledon



Whitchurch Morris from Buckinghamshire



Towersey Horseshoes from Oxfordshire



**David**  
Membership Secretary