

## Ryburgh Wildlife Group June Newsletter

Membership news. We've had a number of new members. Welcome to Kevin; Roger and Maeve; Mike Tracy and Alex; and Chris and Sarah. I know that Roger and Maeve have already made a trip to the scrape and had a close-up view of a Marsh Harrier, lovely. Welcome on board.

I understand that the dawn chorus walk was a success and the 4.00am start enabled people to hear the chorus of song build up. Thank you to Jane and Mike Rundle for the post walk breakfast. Sadly, I couldn't make the walk this year. Must plan better for 2025.

I don't know whether you have been able to dodge the rain and get out much in May. For me much of the month was urban based so I had to grab every opportunity to get outdoors. One really fortunate opportunity was to see Ospreys in Snowdonia. I'd forgotten about the Ospreys in the Afon Glaslyn area, and it was an AA road sign that caught my attention.

Following the AA sign, it led us to a small site that enabled us to look at two separate Osprey nests from the same spot in opposite directions. Both nests had females sitting on eggs and we were given a real treat when one female took a short flight, perched on a branch and then settled down on the eggs again.

Breeding Ospreys must be seen as a natural success story. After their natural return to Loch Garten in Scotland in 1954, they are now breeding in both England and Wales too. Locally we may have breeding Ospreys this year at Ranworth – fingers crossed. The link below is to a live camera watching Ospreys in Poole harbour.

[www.birdsofpooleharbour.co.uk/osprey/osprey-webcams](http://www.birdsofpooleharbour.co.uk/osprey/osprey-webcams)

It is hard to think that a visit to Poole harbour nowadays offers the potential to see Osprey, White-tailed Sea Eagle, and Spoonbills. Times are a changing. In Ryburgh we've seen changes too. We've probably lost Lapwing and Turtle Doves as breeding birds, but we now regularly see Cattle Egrets and Great White Egrets.

Is it me? We have a seed feeder and a fat ball feeder. Lining up to use them today were Jackdaws, Magpies and Collared Doves. No "little" birds to be seen.

With only a few days out in the countryside this month, I had to quickly grab the opportunity to make Wild Clary, my new plant of the month. I saw it at the flower rich churchyard at Little Snoring and it looked like an escaped garden plant, so I got PlantNet to check it for me. Quite distinctive.



Photo by David Cooling



One thing I forgot to mention last month from our trip to the New Forest was quite how many Song Thrushes there were there. They were definitely the most common bird. It was looking down that we found this fledgling sitting by the side of a track calling and waiting to be fed. Very well camouflaged and easily overlooked.

When we use the term “forest” I feel we immediately think of dense woodland. Although that may be true in mainland Europe, in England particularly, forest meant the hunting ground of the monarch. “Chase” was the nobility’s hunting ground, and “heath” was somewhere

where the rest of us could try and catch something for dinner. It’s funny how words and their meaning change over time – wicked.

An exciting piece of news, and possibly a RWG restoration project in the wings, is about a pond in the village that has been recently rediscovered. It is close to the old railway line and Peter Trent, local historian, has confirmed it is on the 1810 Inclosure map. Watch this space for more news on this front.

### **Dates for diary**

#### **Farm Stewardship for Food and Conservation walk at Highfield**

Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> June at 10.00am – Meet at the beet pad in Highfield Lane. Wear wellingtons.

#### **Ryburgh Nature Watch Week from Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> June to Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> June**

You should have had an email from me about this. The event timetable is still having the last bits finalised and then I will publish the details. This is an exciting and ambitious event to engage members, and villagers to raise awareness of our local wildlife and crucially, record what wildlife is out there. We do hope that you will come and participate in the events being organised. Everyone is welcome, young and old.

We also need your wildlife sightings. Again, please use the form I shared and send them in by email. The committee will be busy plotting these sightings on a local map for everyone to see on the Thursday evening. We’ve had two separate sightings of hedgehogs recently – one at each end of the village. Let’s hope people see them in the Nature Watch Week.

Don’t forget the photography competition is open to all ages and abilities. We’ve got a separate category for phone images too so don’t be shy. Start taking photos and send them in, otherwise the judging committee won’t have anything to do just prior to Nick Acheson’s talk “Reasons for Hope” on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> June 7.00pm. The talk sounds really exciting, and best of all it’s free. Come along to the Memorial Hall.

**Sennowe walk** –autumn walk. Date to be decided.

## **Tail piece**

Ivy-leaved Toadflax is a common plant and one I got under my belt a while ago. It can often be seen growing from walls and so forth. I snapped the little fella on the left in Portmeirion. He's got a bit growing ahead of him to get anywhere near the plant on the right in East Ruston Old Vicarage Garden.



Photos by David Cooling (left) and Julie Bunker (right)

**David**  
Membership Secretary