

Sunlight on the morning of 16th October

Janet Craig

Village Plan

Colin Marsh is continuing to work with a small biodiversity sub-group rounding up data relevant to the village plan. There are a number of birds and insects, as well as habitats, planner must take into account when approving plans. The species such as Dartford warbler, slowworms and moths such as dusky thorn are protected under Schedule 41 of the NERC Act 2006. This is a slow and painstaking job and I am frequently asked about information given to me, through garden bird watch but also because I am used to sorting out such lists as a National Trust volunteer ecologist. Sometimes we have luck in developing information sources such as on a recent Sunday, I chased up a Wessex Water ecologist taking invertebrate samples from the local river system. Colin has chased up such data from Wessex Water. Incidentally, the River Jordan being a chalk stream is highly valuable in a European context as well as providing a home for ells.

Garden bird watch

22nd to 28th October 2017

Please send lists after 29th October

In putting together this newsletter, I welcome photographs of interesting plant and animals and other aspects of the countryside around Sutton Poyntz

VILLAGE WILDLIFE September – October 2017

We have received garden bird lists from 16 houses this month with a total of 38 species recorded plus Ruth recorded garden warbler not on the village list and recently John was walking through the village around 7.30 hearing barn owl. Grey wagtail was again feeding on my lawn in early morning on a number of days. Both swallows and house martin were seen by three and two observers respectively. No thrushes, no yellowhammer, no bullfinch were seen. Blackbird numbers seem to be down. Six people heard tawny owl, which seem to be active on warm autumn nights but possibly also reflecting that Rita and Colin recorded six wood mice using Longworth traps in the waterworks meadows. This is one of the best results for some time.

Butterflies seem to be declining for winter with few red admirals. speckled wood and small white. Once again Colin saw a small copper on the footpath through Northdown Farm.

National Moth Night surveys were 12, 13 and 14 October. On 12th John had a second-generation swallow-tailed and straw dot. There were also four-feathered ranunculus and a single large wainscot (a reed bed specialist). On the 13th Colin and Rita's haul included: black rustic, Blair's shoulder knot, bearded chestnut, red-line Quaker, vestal (a migrant) and rusty-dot pearl amongst 30 moths and 22 records.

The young deer illustrated by Dorothy below has been visiting gardens between Sutton Road and the top of Plaister's Lane and I hear it may have been killed, as it had no road sense. I was shown a water sample by the Wessex Ecologist and it certainly contained caddis flies and a large dragonfly larvae.



Green woodpecker Janet Craig



Roe Deer in garden Dot Emblem

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