



Ox-eye Daisy

The headline photograph this month was taken by the gate on the A354 adjacent to Winslow Hill. The cold spring and the late start to the summer have meant a delay in flowering for many spring flowers and an accompanying delay in insects emerging, to pollinate them. I do not think it is all bad news. I spent yesterday on the train from Waterloo to Weymouth and the line side was certainly enhanced by banks of this plant. Many other plants are behind too. On the chalk grassland, Horseshoe Vetch is at least two and possibly three weeks behind, but things are catching up. It is also good to see fields of the tall Meadow Buttercup shining yellow in the distance, although these are not as common in Dorset as in the Yorkshire Dales, where we visited in the first week of June. The summer plants are catching up with this spell of warmer wet weather with fields of Yellow-Rattle mixing with orchids such as Common Spotted and Southern Marsh-orchid in west Dorset. There is a good showing of Bird's-foot Trefoil on the chalk banks at the top of Plaisters Lane and with luck Pyramidal Orchids will be out on the Golf Course verge soon. It was good to see the Belted Galloway cattle at the top of Plaisters Lane. They would do the gorse hill no end of good.

News Round-up

Butterflies have been scarce and it has hardly been worth putting the moth trap out. Jon Campbell told me of three nights with an empty trap and mine had only three Heart and Dart on one night I put mine out. By mid-June, I have seen a single Painted Lady in the village and Wall on Winslow Hill and Portland.

During the first weekend in June, there was a national Garden Bioblitz. An impressive 2424 species were amongst the 22,668 records and 3711 photos received. Recorders were asked to use a special form on www.brc.ac.uk/irecord/garden-bioblitz-info Dorset was third in the species list with 443 species but behind the top scoring county Surrey with 740 records. My lowly total is from Scotland.



EDITOR: JOHN NEWBOULD

01305 837384

www.suttonpoyntz.org.uk

EMAIL: johna72newbould@yahoo.co.uk

Wildlife Walks – Mondays from Fox Cottage near the Mission Hall at 9.30am. All welcome.

Garden Bird Watch

I have been away for two weeks staying in other rural areas and it has been interesting to see similar birds to those seen in Sutton Poyntz gardens. In Scotland, there was no Green Woodpecker but Hooded Crow appeared occasionally. Red Squirrel was a particular delight. In Rotherham, we stayed in a house, which overlooked a local nature reserve, but there were few birds even with a good hawthorn hedge and a meadow full of wildflowers. We were entertained though by a pair of Blue Tits feeding



Once again in June, Janet Craig has reported on 8 birds fledging young including six nests of House Sparrow, Dunnock, Robin with four eggs still to hatch out and one Wren's nest. On Puddledock Lane, there were two reports of Swallows fledging.

