



Harrogate District Biodiversity Action Group

Newsletter no.28 – March 2018

HDBAG Annual General Meeting
Saturday 24th March 2018
Main Hide, Staveley Nature Reserve
Minskip Road, Staveley,
North Yorkshire, HG5 9LQ
10 – 11am followed by walk around the
reserve

1. Welcome
2. Matters arising from minutes of last AGM 1st April 2017
3. Chair's report
4. Treasurer's report
5. Election of committee
6. Any other business
7. Walk around reserve.



A rainbow under cloudy skies at Staveley Nature Reserve by Kat Woolley

Directions

On the northern outskirts of Staveley, 2.5 miles south west of Boroughbridge. Car park is just out of the village on the Minskip road and also disabled access via radar key from the track next to the church on Main Street. Public footpaths cross the site from Staveley Main Street next to the pub and from the Minskip road.

Membership

Membership runs from January to December 2018 and we hope you will continue to support the group. Fees have stayed the same at £10 single or £15 for a family.

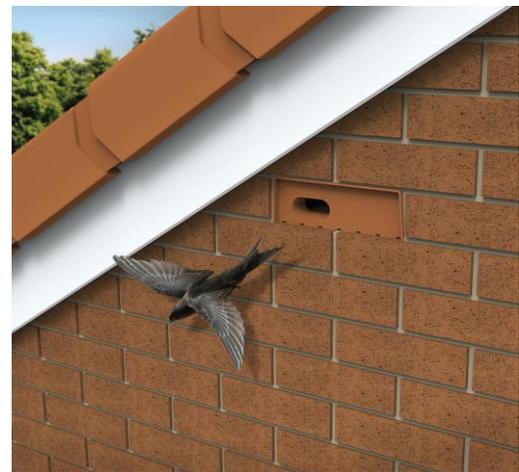
Please send your subscription:-

1. By mail to HDBAG, c/- 102 Leeds Road, Harrogate, HG2 8HB
2. Electronic Transfer to HDBAG, HSBC Account no, 12225778 Branch code 40-23-12 with your surname and initial as the reference
3. By PayPal – go to our website at <http://biodiversityaction.org>

Save Our Swifts

A recent talk at Harrogate District Naturalist Society by Edward Mayer from the Swift Conservation group alerted his audience to the need to provide urban homes for Swifts. Over the years older properties have had gaps under roofs and eaves blocked to improve insulation and new builds are built to be air tight.

However a new build is an opportunity to provide nesting sites for Swifts. The partnership between RSPB and Barratt Homes, which launched in 2014 to look at how nature and wildlife could be incorporated into new communities, worked together and commissioned UK manufacturing company Manthorpe to develop a new swift nest box design that could be easily installed during construction.



There are also a variety of swift nest boxes available for attaching under eaves of existing buildings. To view a wide selection go to:-

www.swift-conservation.org/Shopping!.htm

Masham Swifts Town Trail

The town of Masham has been celebrating their Swift population for years.

Masham's tall stone buildings have made it a popular town for the Swift, a bird which nests in the eaves and for many is the soundtrack of summer evenings with its distinctive screeching call.

The large open shape of [Masham's](#) Market Place makes the perfect arena for their high speed frantic circling and in the summer months the swifts take full advantage of this.

The town has celebrated its summer visitors by creating 10 sculptures styled after these wonderful birds and an accompanying map for visitors.

Masham Community Office, Little Market Place, Masham, Ripon, HG4 4DY



An Open meeting for Swift Conservation in Masham is being held on March 23rd at 6.00 pm in the Town Hall.

Attendees will be encouraged to take part in a Swift Nesting Survey which will run throughout the nesting season from early May to the end of July. There will be a film about swifts, and nest boxes and sound systems for sale. The group will be working with children in local schools; there will be a children's version of the survey, as well as literature, stickers etc. suitable for children.

mashamswifts@gmail.com

Volunteer work Sunday 15th April, Jacob Smith Park, 10:00 – 12:00

Tree after care – The Friends of Jacob Smith Park will be clearing away vegetation from previously planted trees to ensure they have the best chance to survive. Meeting at the noticeboard at the entrance to the park

All tools will be provided but if you could bring with you suitable outdoor clothing (to include water proofs), sensible outdoor shoes such as walking boots and any food or drink you require.

If you are coming along to any of these tasks then please let Sam Walker, Countryside Ranger know.

Sam.Walker@harrogate.gov.uk

Parks and Environmental Services
mob: 07525 988288

Garden bird feeders and disease among wild birds

Newspapers are reporting research by the London Zoological Society, British Trust for Ornithology and the RSPB which links wild bird health and garden feeders.

Kate Risely from the BTO is quoted as advising:-
"We're calling on everyone who feeds wild birds to be aware of their responsibilities for preventing disease. Simple steps we'd recommend include offering a variety of food from accredited sources; feeding in moderation, so that feeders are typically emptied every one to two days; the regular cleaning of bird feeders; and rotation of feeding sites to avoid accumulation of waste food or bird droppings,"

Comments and contributions welcome
Please contact Pamela Millen:-

✉ biodiversityaction@gmail.com
☎ 01423 523233

Ripon Walled Garden

Spring is slowly arriving and as we manage to get out in our gardens to see what plants have survived (or not), remember Ripon Walled Garden will be a good place to look for replacements.

Growing with Confidence Catering with Confidence Enriching Lives



Walled Garden

Tea Room

Now Open

Monday to Saturdays

10am – 3pm



Enjoy our 'plot to plate' menu for lunches, cakes and treats

Find us on the left as you head out of Ripon on the A6108, shortly after passing Ripon Golf Club.



RCL Ripon Walled Garden

Palace Road
Ripon
North Yorkshire
HG4 3HN
Tel: 01765 609229

www.riponwalledgarden.org.uk

Follow us on  

Spring Plant Fair & Artisan Market

Saturday 12th May

10am – 4pm

Celebrate spring time with our annual plant sale in our historic walled garden

* Local Stalls * Orchard & Woodland *

* Free entry * Potting Shed Play Area *



A local charity to enable people with learning disabilities to achieve their life goals

Registered charity No: 1049030

Company limited by guarantee No: 3062948



HIGH BATTS NATURE RESERVE

THE QUARRY LIFE AWARD



Quarrying for wildlife

An evening of short illustrated talks centred round the Pennycroft quarry extension, North Stainley, exploring geology, history and its potential as a major new wildlife area

Friday 23rd March at 7.30 pm

North Stainley Village Hall

This event is free; refreshments will be served

For more details visit Highbatts.wordpress.com

This event is part of the "In at the Start" Project run by High Batts Nature Reserve with financial support from

Hanson
HEIDELBERG CEMENT Group

Harrogate
BOROUGH COUNCIL
Small Project Fund

Quarrying for wildlife

Speakers are:-

Adrian Kidd from the Yorkshire Dales Geology Trust, who will talk about the geology of the site. Stephen Moorhouse, a historian who will talk on the historical landscape of Wilderness Wood. Bob Orange on quarrying and the benefits of restored sites for landscape and wildlife.

Spring means Hedgehogs

I haven't seen it yet but the evidence is there (the distinctive black droppings) so I am pleased to know a hedgehog is back in my garden. I have started to put out meal worms at night near the bowl of clean water and there are already apples and seeds from the bird feeders out in the garden as extras.

Here are some reminders of how to keep a hedgehog happy in your garden.

Provide access to roam by leaving 13cm holes under hedges and in walls. They cover about a mile each night in search of food. One garden is not enough. Before using a strimmer make sure the area to cut is clear.

For a couple of days after applying wood preservative at ground level protect your work from hedgehogs who like to lick it!

Stop or reduce the amount of pesticides and poisons used.

Move piles of rubbish to a new site before burning them.

Ensure netting is kept at a safe height.

Check compost heaps before digging the fork in.

Cover drains or deep holes.

Ensure there is an easy route out of ponds and pools.

British Hedgehog Preservation Society advice on what to do with a hedgehog in need of help.

A hedgehog lying in the sun or wobbling as it walks or with flies round it needs help. Use gardening glove to collect it up, bring it indoors and put in a high sided cardboard box with an old towel or fleece for it to hide under. Call 01584 890801 for further advice and numbers of local contacts.

PM.