

Vol. 31 No. 1
February 2016

Winter 2016

The Committee for 2015/16 is as follows:

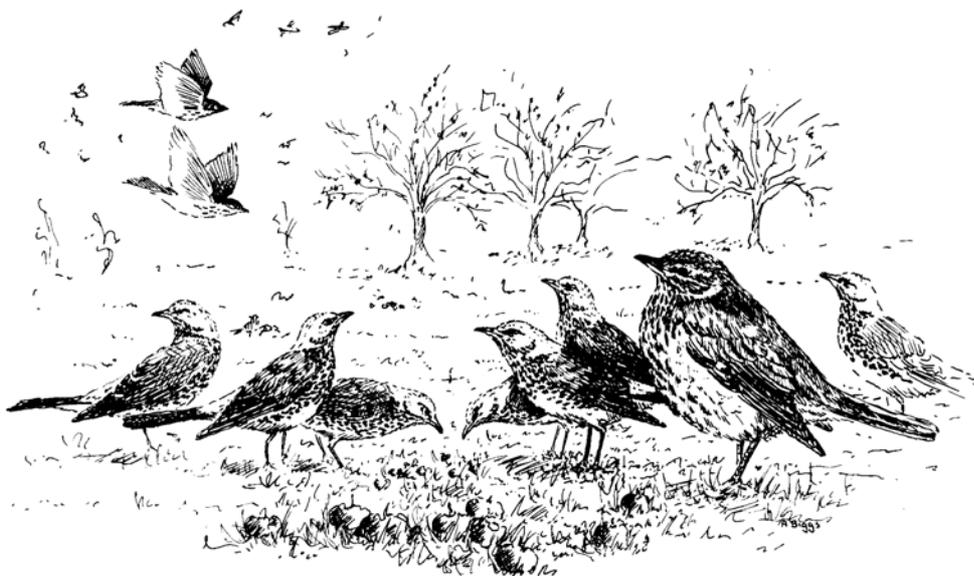
Barclay Arnott	740500
Ann Biggs	740810
John Burgess	749441
Sheila Dickerson	749443
Susan Everitt, Treas.	740352
Elver Langley	
Wendy Lanman	741138
Caroline Lee	
Paul Mason	740219
Robert Norman	740473
Chris Prescott	749038

Please feel free to get in touch with any committee member with questions or information you might have. If you have any specific records of flora and fauna, please send them to Paul Mason, 13 Aldreth Road, Haddenham (740219).

HCS Website:

www.hcs.tinaboneuk.co.uk

Fruit-less Matters



Fieldfares in an orchard. Artwork by Ann Biggs.

It will have an effect on local birdlife. Green and Great Spotted Woodpeckers make nest holes in the trunks and the much rarer Lesser Spotted Woodpecker used once to place its much smaller holes there too. In winter much low grade or damaged fruit falls to the ground and in very cold weather wintering Fieldfares, Redwings and continental Blackbirds swarm in to find sustenance. Not to mention Great, Blue and Long-tailed Tits. In some years a few Waxwings also join in. But at least there is no problem in spring now with Bullfinches that used to crowd in to nibble flower buds. They were once such a problem that orchard keepers would shoot and net them. That hasn't happened for a long time now and the brilliant Bullfinch has become a protected species, such is the problem of low numbers breeding generally. It is thought that those large flocks were actually overwintering Scandinavian birds but only rarely now are any of this distinctive sub species (much brighter coloured and a little bigger) seen. Mistle Thrushes nested regularly until lately and the decline is puzzling.

Spotted Flycatchers used to make use of boxes put up for them but not now, and only one pair is known to nest regularly in the whole village. Redpolls once nested but why they don't now is a mystery. Chaffinches still do, however.

Badgers love to gobble this harvest and Woodcock often come in winter and point their long beaks into the softer wetter soil to pull out worms found in damp places. Even the odd Common Snipe has been observed sucking out the juices with its long beak. Tawny, Barn and Little Owls search out rodents, which in turn seek out the apple seeds from rotted fruit to help maintain their young, and so it goes on. Greater Spotted Woodpeckers find plum stones and wedge them into cracks in the trunks of trees so they can hammer out the nut inside. Wood Mice have been seen to take wild rose hips to hidden holes in the trunks and pile up the soft, red outer coverings in large numbers to get at the seeds within.

Orchards are also great places for fungi. Although the dreaded Honey Fungus can be a serious matter (once a tree is invaded its eventual demise is inevitable), it is

Membership information

Subscription rates
1 Jan to 31 Dec 2016:
Individual: £7
Family: £12

If you wish to join the Society, send your cheque, made out to **Haddenham**

Conservation Society, with your name, address and telephone number, to:

Susan Everitt
21 Twenty Pence Road
Wilburton, Ely CB6 3RM

This will entitle you to receive our regular newsletter and will give you free entry to the 7 winter talks, a saving of £2.50 per person per session.

an attractive honey coloured species nevertheless. Other fungi found on the trunks are Chicken o' the Woods, a handsome bracket fungus that is creamy yellow in colour and can be quite large. Another attractive bracket (these grow on the trunks of the trees) is Cinnamon Bracket, which starts off bright red-orange, fading to cinnamon before turning black and dying. Turkeytail can be found on rotting dead wood piles and looks like what it says on the tin – a turkey's spread tail and the same violet-greyish colour. Many other fungi can be found on the ground, some so small that a magnifying glass is needed to see what they actually look like. The older trees are covered in mosses and bryophytes of national interest. And of course there's the mistletoe.

Haddenham once was awash with orchards. Many were along Aldreth Road and Hill. The reason for that was that any frost in spring would fall away from the orchards in bloom, thus saving the tender fruit. Other orchards were along Froize End and Lode Way all the way to Wilburton. Duck Lane had a cherry orchard among the apples, plums and pears. All the picked fruit would be sorted and crated by the growers, put on lorries and carted to Haddenham railway station, where the fruit was sent to Covent Garden or the Midlands. As time went by and roads improved, so the fruit would go all the way by lorry. The now famous transport company Jack Richards and Son, with its bright



Chicken o' the Woods.

yellow livery, started in Haddenham by doing just that.

Time moves on though and the orchards are all but gone. Hinton Orchard by Hinton Hall, lately owned by Justin Brooke's Clopton Hall Farms from Wickhambrook in Essex, has recently been grubbed up and burnt. Over 100 acres of mainly Bramley and Cox apple trees gone, and the company is said to be selling the land. The scenery has changed and wildlife gone.

Just Robert Norman's 40 acres left! Oh dear, what will the future hold for that?

News from Guppy's Pond

Contributed by Wendy Lanman

This has been, so far, a very confusing winter. Both fauna and flora don't really seem to know what is happening, the temperatures have been so mild except for a few very short cold spells. The grass has kept on growing, and so have many plants, including the waterlily underwater leaves.

Fish usually spend the winter in the deepest



Roach

Fish usually spend the winter in the deepest part of the Pond, but have been seen regularly close to the surface. No worries about the Kingfishers either until now, as they have also been putting up an appearance several times a week all winter. If this continues, we shall have a really healthy population this summer and those of you who come to our Boating Day will have a real treat!

Duck numbers are not very high, but the Coots and Moorhens are going busily about their everyday lives and we have had visits from passing Cormorants, keen to keep fish numbers down to just the right level.

We shall have to start listening for the croaking of mating frogs and toads soon and hope the weather stays mild enough to do them no harm.



Cake and Plant Sale

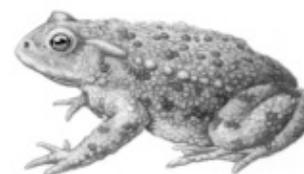
The Green, Saturday 7 May (to be confirmed)

Spring is in our sights now, so many of you are probably already tidying up your gardens, splitting plants and digging out self-seeded ones you find in the wrong places. Don't throw them out – please bring them to our Cake and Plant Sale and we shall find homes for them to thrive in. You can then buy different ones to add to your gardens.

If you prefer food to plants, there will also be plenty of delicious cakes and other produce to choose from and any you wish to donate will be gratefully received. All profits will go towards the speakers' fees for the Winter Talks.



Toad



There's a Deer in the Garden

Contributed by Simon Stirrup

While making a morning cup of tea on 8 November I was most surprised to see a female Muntjac Deer from our kitchen window. When the rest of the family hurried downstairs we realised there was a pair. This was the first time that we had seen a Muntjac in the garden during almost 10 years living in Aldreth, a garden that we had always assumed to be deer-proof. Over the next hour we enjoyed watching them as they nonchalantly wandered around the garden and at one point coming onto the paving close to the house. The male was very attentive to the female, keeping close, nuzzling her and sometimes licking her neck. He was more cautious than the female and often stood alert and watchful. They ate windfall apples and crab apples, drank from the pond and then waded into the pond to eat water plants. Our initial delight turned to concern when we saw that they were also eating garden plants. Suddenly we realised that they had disappeared without seeing how they managed it.

The following morning there was no sign of any deer which raised our hopes that this had been an isolated visit, which would have been a relief as we wondered how the garden would cope if it became a regular event. However, the next morning there was the female Muntjac standing in the pond eating water plants and we saw her on several occasions during the course of the week. After reviewing footage from a camera trap that I set up in the garden, it was clear that the deer were in the garden every night and that they were accompanied by a cute, highly energetic, spotted fawn.

The appearance of the Muntjac was an unexpected consequence of removing a tall, dense Leylandii hedge from our garden boundary the previous week. Our garden was now separated from an adjacent garden by a chain link fence which, on closer inspection, had a break in it. After mending the break we were surprised to see that footage from the camera trap showed that the fawn was still visiting the garden at night, but not the adult deer. Further investigation revealed that the fawn was able to jump through a 15 x 15cm gap in the fence with ease.

The removal of the Leylandii hedge opened up the garden which had other consequences: a Heron visited the pond on several occasions (which was a first) and Pheasants became regular visitors to the garden. Previously, a Pheasant in the garden was a real novelty with only a handful of records. Suddenly, we were seeing at least one most days and occasionally up to three.

These Muntjacs were amongst the wildlife highlights in our garden since we moved to our house in Aldreth almost 10 years ago. The approach of this anniversary has prompted us to review the changes we have made to the garden and the wildlife that has visited during this time.

Our first project was to plant a native hedge along the end of the garden, followed by the construction of a wildlife pond and then the planting of a modest area of grassland that we rather grandly call the 'wildflower meadow'. The latest project has been to plant a native hedge to replace the recently removed and much detested Leylandii barrier.

Amongst the birds that we have seen and heard in, over and from the garden are Whooper and Bewick's



© Simon Stirrup

Muntjac pair © Simon Stirrup.

Swans, Shelduck, Quail, Greenshank, Whimbrel, Curlew, Green Sandpiper, Common Tern, Marsh Harrier, Red Kite, Hobby, Tawny Owl, Little Owl, Barn Owl, Turtle Dove, Waxwing, Lesser Whitethroat, Coal Tit, Brambling, Lesser Redpoll, Reed Bunting and Corn Bunting. In addition to birds, we have seen Bank Vole, Hedgehog (sadly no sightings for many years), Grass Snake, a range of breeding dragonflies and damselflies and Brown Argus butterflies which possibly breed.

Although in future years we will probably not see another Muntjac in the garden (fingers crossed) we look forward to seeing plenty of other wildlife.



Subscriptions Due

Subscriptions for 2016 are now due. It helps us if you pay them as close as possible to 1 January. You can pay in cash or by cheque at a meeting or post a cheque to Susan Everett, Treasurer, 21 Twenty Pence Road, Wilburton, Ely CB6 3RM. Please note that subscription rates have gone up to £7 individual and £12 family.



The Old Burial Ground

This has been another good year for the wild flower meadow that we manage in the Old Burial Ground. The spring and early summer was unusually warm and dry which favoured the wild flowers over the meadow grasses. Consequently, we were treated to a lovely display of wild flowers through spring and into early summer, after which the grasses and hogweed began to assert their dominance in many areas. It was particularly rewarding to see how well the yellow rattle grew in large parts of the area, giving a blaze of colour. It was also notable to see how restricted the grass growth was in these areas, a good illustration of the value of this old meadow 'weed' to suppress grass growth, exactly as we always planned! We can hope now that the yellow rattle will spread further and continue to restrict the grass growth over the rest of the area, making vegetation management easier.

Mid summer came with a change in the weather pattern, cooler and wetter weather, just in time for the hay cut and the school holidays! This wetter weather also brought a surge in the growth of grasses, but we did manage to cut between the showers and on the 19 July we had a dry day for the annual hay rake.

Unfortunately the brighter weather did not encourage volunteers! We had only a bare handful for the second year running. Much puffing, panting and sweating saw the area cleared of vegetation however, and so only a light maintenance cut and rake was needed in October to prepare for 2016.

This assumes that the Conservation Society continues to manage the area as we have for the past 20 or more years. It has been very disappointing to attract so few volunteers in the last couple of years to help manage the area and, in particular, to help at our major summer activity.

Unless more able-bodied volunteers come forward to take an active role, it seems likely that the wild flower meadow, along with the 'butterfly garden' in the north-west corner, will have to revert to regular maintenance by contractors. This will mean a consequent loss of wild flowers and habitat for the creatures that live there, not to mention the loss of pleasure to the many people who enjoy the beauty, peace and tranquillity of this area.

It is over to you – come forward and pledge to volunteer or see the whole area become a plain grass field cut every few weeks and devoid of wild flowers!



Yellow rattle

Dates for your Diary

Sunday 3 April
 Sunday 17 July
 Sunday 16 October
 Time: 10.00–12.00

All tools are supplied; just bring garden gloves.

For more information/to pledge support, contact Barclay Arnott on 740500.



The hedge in winter before laying.

Laying Down in the Meadows

Contributed by Jez Reeve

You can now see Ely Cathedral in the distance from Ken Bowcock's bench at the top of the Bonfire field in Fairchild's Meadow. Over the hedge, across the Pond field and Grunty Fen the Ship of the Fens draws the eye with its unique splendour. Where there had been a row of mixed trees in the Bonfire field there is now a laid hedge reaching out its branches south towards the top of the hill rather than to the sky.

Before the start of the conservation management programme in Fairchild's Meadow the Pond field and the Bonfire field were just divided by a wire fence. It was in 2004 that a hardworking band of volunteers planted blackthorn, hazel, hawthorn and willow trees, interspersed with field maple and one disease-resistant elm, to start the hedge off. Funds from the Heritage Lottery Fund helped to pay for these trees.

The late Ken Bowcock was the chair of Haddenham Parish Council and the Fairchild's Meadow Committee. His quiet strength and purpose are remembered by all who knew him, so it is fitting somehow that the view that has been opened up by the laying of the hedge is best seen from his memorial bench. Before the hedge was laid and the trees were in full leaf the hedge obscured the view and did not provide effective stock control. In winter it was even less functional for this purpose.

Now that the hedge has been laid, well in advance of the sap rising and birds nesting, it is the bare bones of what will become a dense, chunky, manageable hedge. The intricacies of the intertwined branches, with the new growth from the bottom, will provide new habitats for small vertebrates and branches for nesting birds. Birds that do not nest within the hedge will use it for resting or as a refuge. Standard trees have been left within the hedge punctuating the lower habitat space with lofty perches for raptors. Most of the work was completed over one weekend with 20 volunteers. Expenditure on stakes, binders and refreshments was covered by the Fairchild's Meadow account of Haddenham Parish Council, which generates funds from farming the land under a conservation management programme.



A job well done!

Quite a Busy Wildlife Autumn and Early Winter

A busy little autumn runaround for 2015 started with a Whinchat by Clayton's Bridge. Always a good place for a surprise visitor. While Long Drove sported about 80–90 Lapwings and up to 25–30 Golden Plovers flying in flock, there were 7–8 Common Buzzards soaring, 1 juvenile Marsh Harrier, 2 Sparrowhawks and 1 Hobby all interacting in air. Later, on Graingers Drove, up to 10 in a covey of Grey Partridges. In Aldreth about 100 House Martins seemingly feeding off the tops of two tall trees, landing and taking off again. Perhaps aphids on leaves or similar?

On 23 August a 'call to arms' by local swallows in a Station Road garden revealed a lovely Hobby over the house, followed later by a female Sparrowhawk. On 30 August Simon Stirrup in Aldreth spotted a Hummingbird Hawkmoth on buddleia, despite the rain. A good year for them, it seems (see below). Then another of those lucky wildlife chances was hearing a Greenshank calling as it flew overhead at 7.10 pm. Two Spotted Flycatchers spent a couple of days at Berry Fen corner.

Early September is always a good time to find a lot of birds either migrating in or out or just resting. At Clayton's Bridge a juvenile Hobby was learning to catch dragonflies and a female Marsh Harrier was quartering the sugar beet fields. Other sightings in September were a Sand Martin at The Boot, Lesser Redpoll and Siskin flying over on the 6th, 16 Grey Partridges in 2 coveys, 11 Ruffs on the 19th with 25 on 21st, more Redpolls and Siskins on the 27th, ending up later with several visiting garden feeding stations right up to December. A Merlin was also hunting on the 6th. Towards the end of the month a walk by Simon Stirrup clocked up 2 Kestrel, several Grey Partridges, a Kingfisher, Treecreeper (a species not recorded for some time), Grey Wagtail, 2 Chiffchaffs, a Goldcrest, and Siskin with several Redpolls flying south. More of all these birds were seen in Duck Lane and Hinton Hedges, and Coal Tits were moving in again.

By the end of October Tawny Owls were in full song and on 5 November the Burgess family in Aldreth had a morning surprise with a Long-eared Owl staring at them from a bush outside their back door. On 10 November, a very windy day, in the Aldreth Road orchard there were at least 30 Fieldfares and a Redwing plus 5–6 Goldcrests and up to 5 Greenfinches.

A day later Barbara York had a happy encounter as she was driving between Hermitage Farm and Earith Marina by the double bend in the road when a Short-eared Owl flew in front of her. Luckily it went into the ditch unharmed! Later a couple of Brambling flew over Dambank and a Peregrine Falcon was on patrol.

The first Stonechats of the winter were seen along Dambank on 23 October and they were joined by 2 more pairs right up to the end of December.

In December Pied Wagtails featured with 12 at the sewage plant and 17 feeding round a tractor as it was cultivating a field by Galls Farm. From then on to the end of the year a Little Egret (see website for a super photograph by Simon) visited several drains in the fen as did up to 3 Green Sandpipers and the usual Corn



Long-eared owl photographed by Laura Burgess. See HCS website for full colour.

Buntings and Reed Buntings. Goldfinch and Linnet flocks roamed around the fens. Wigeons and Pochards with Tufted Ducks were on Hinton Farm reservoir, as was a Little Egret on one occasion. On the 29 December a male Hen Harrier was seen by Simon. Oh yes, and those leucistic part-white Blackbirds mentioned last year turned up again for winter. Not a bad autumn really.



Hawkmoths.

Butterflies, moths and dragonflies

Hummingbird Hawkmoths were quite numerous, with reports coming in from gardens all around the village. Some Painted Lady butterflies were seen, but not in the numbers of about three years ago. Generally early butterflies and dragonflies were not as numerous as usual, but as the season went on numbers seemed to pick up.

Swift Moves in Northumbria Close

Contributed by Jake Allsop and Dick Newell

A new social housing development in Northumbria Close, at the northern end of the village, is now complete. As it is a greenfield site, the developers agreed to incorporate biodiversity enhancements in their plans. In consultation with Haddenham Conservation Society, a provision was written into the planning approval requesting the installation of nest box accommodation for bird species known to nest in buildings. In the event, this meant primarily Swifts.

At the request of HCS, we (Jake Allsop and Dick Newell of Action for Swifts) visited the site and came up with a simple solution: to incorporate nest boxes made from clay airbrick liners inside the brickwork of the buildings, each one concealed behind a slip brick with an entrance cut in it, in most cases on the gable end. This is a low cost solution, and easy for the bricklayers to implement. The exterior slip brick with its entrance slot is mounted on the external face of the nest cavity. In this way, we were able to provide nesting accommodation without compromising the fabric or the appearance of the building.

Fourteen nest boxes were installed. Even in August and during the ongoing building work, workmen reported seeing birds entering some of the boxes. We know that one was a Great Tit, and the others were House Sparrows, but earlier, there was one report of a Swift seen in the vicinity of a box.

We learned something on this project: The size of the access hole to the nest cavity is critical. The recommended dimensions are: Length 65–70mm, Height 30mm. However, we know that at 30mm Starlings can squeeze in, so we recommended a height of 28mm. (Swifts will get into a hole as low as 25mm, but as they wriggle to get in, they may be vulnerable to predators.)

What success can we expect from the Northumbria Close initiative? First of all, we need to monitor the boxes during the breeding season. Any HCS members who would like to help with this, please contact us on actionforswifts@gmail.com. Secondly, we know that Swifts are often reluctant to occupy new nest sites, so we need to persuade one or more householders to play 'duetting calls', using a very simple sound system, during key stages of the breeding season. This attracts the non-breeding Swifts who are prospecting for nest sites. If they take occupancy of a hole, they may breed immediately, but are more likely to use it in the following season.

So, this is yet another attempt to do something about the decline of Swifts in our villages, towns and cities. The building contractors were entirely enthusiastic and supportive, and it is to be hoped that they will take the message with them to future housing developments that they work on. We also hope that the message from Northumbria Close, Haddenham, will be heard by other developers across the land. It's the only way we can be sure that there will be Swifts in our skies in years to come.



Unfinished entrance.



Completed entrance.



Typical gable end location.

Postscript: More information about this and our many other local projects can be found on our website: actionforswifts.blogspot.co.uk.

The Milk Board Lorries and the Owls

Contributed by Paul Mason

The recent appearance of a Long-eared Owl almost outside the back door of the Burgess family house in Aldreth brought to mind a surprising incident from the 1970s or early 1980s. I had fed the pigs in the morning and gone in for my breakfast. Hardly had I sat down when there was an abrupt knock on the back door. I knew from the knock who it was, and I was not wrong, as when I opened the door there stood (now late) Derek Woolstenholmes.

Derek lived by doing odd jobs around the village but he did love to talk. He often told me of wild life he had seen around the fen when he was doing a bit of poaching. There was little keeping in this parish; farmers just occasionally arranged rough shoots, which didn't get large bags, of mainly wild Pheasants. So most didn't mind Derek shooting, as long as he stayed on the public byways and footpaths! He sometimes didn't know what he had seen but gave me such good descriptions that I knew. For example, he would often say he had seen an owl hunting up and down a ditch and turning in the air before it fell on its prey.....well that is invariably a day-flying Short-eared Owl, especially if it is brown coloured. Or he would say that he had seen an owl perched on the edge of a drain, mostly at the foot of an overhanging bush. When he came a bit closer it would move to another similar bush and so on. That is usually the behaviour of the nocturnal Long-eared Owl when roosting.

So, to get back to the knock on the door at breakfast time.....Derek was a bit breathless and said I had better come quickly to the Milk Board lorry park (now Clarkes) because of all these owls. I was intrigued and duly went.

At the bottom of the lorry yard was an old orchard with large fruit trees, not then in use. Scattered through these trees were 8-9 Long-eared Owls. That was indeed a surprise as I had never seen so many together before and also they were not hidden but just perched on the open branches, slowly winking away at us with great disdain. A long time would pass before I saw other Long-eared Owls (not in Haddenham) but these were usually hidden in thick blackthorn bushes.

So it was again a surprise when, a few years later, there was another abrupt knock on my back door and there was 'Duddy' (his nickname), saying "there's another of them birds down round Butlers Lane... been there a week or so...didn't know if you had seen it." Well no I hadn't, because Duddy went places in his old tractor where I did not venture when he was out looking for a feathered or furry dinner.

I went to look at that owl too. Although it was half hidden over its spread pile of white deposit, indicating it had been there more than a day or two, it disdained to move. I went back several days after and it was still there, probably saying to itself "what's that human keep coming here for?"

I can't get enough of *Asio otus*. It's those ears, you know! Not really ears but probably for display purposes to attract a mate. So when John Burgess told me of the Long-eared Owl spotted one morning outside his door I was very pleased. He described how

he and his children wondered why a number of tits, finches and blackbirds were all pinking, chattering and getting excited and then they saw, doing its best to hide in the still red-leaved autumn foliage, a Long-eared Owl (see page 5). How great is that?



Damp Day at Nine Acre Wood

Contributed by John Burgess

Dense cloud and persistent drizzle did little to dampen the volunteers' enthusiasm at Nine Acre Wood last Sunday (31 January). The group had assembled to continue the management of the path edge started last year. Initial work had succeeded in creating a permanent opening in the canopy. The light now making it to the wood floor allows dormant plants to grow and weak plants to flourish.

The original coppiced stumps had, on the whole, grown well; several had put on three feet of growth during the year; remarkable as they have grown from nothing more than sawn-off stumps. The Silver Birch on the other hand did not respond so well; they failed to sprout at all. I can only assume they will grow no more.

Nine trees of varying species were earmarked, or should that be bark marked, for felling. The first cut was made close to the ground, creating a coppiced rather than a higher pollard stump. When the cut was almost through, the tree was pushed over. The band of tree fellers then descended, saws in hand, to cut the tree into manageable pieces. The wood was stacked into piles to start the decaying process, which will provide a banquet for fungi, insects and everything else that follows them. This should help improve biodiversity within the wood.

The work went very well and soon all the tagged trees were on the ground and processed. Having achieved our objective, and as the increasing drizzle had not quite soaked through, we walked the perimeter path trimming back overhanging boughs that would impede the tractor and grass cutter. I had thought that all of the Scots Pine originally planted had been smothered out, but at the far edge there is a surviving tree. We trimmed back its neighbours to give it some growing room.

It always surprises me how well the wood has grown. If you walk in when it is in full leaf, you can't see out. I remember vividly as a young lad walking up and down the open field hoeing sugar beet; the contrast is incredible.

Many thanks to the individuals who gave their time and toil to make this happen. It was a brilliant, if a somewhat damp day, fair play to your community spirit.

WINTER TALKS

Indoor meetings are held at the Arkenstall Centre, Haddenham, on the second Tuesday of each month from October to May, but NOT in January, at 8:00 pm.

Members free. Non-members welcome for a nominal fee.

All welcome to stay for a (free) drink and a chat after each talk.

9 February

SWIFTS – Problems and Solutions

Dick Newell of Action for Swifts team discusses why Swifts have been declining for the last 40 years. Population dynamics, the results of geolocator studies, have been amazing and may help find reasons for the decline, and some of the things that we can do about it, in particular the preservation and provision of nesting sites.

8 March

FASCINATION OF BIRDSONG

With sound recordings and photographs **Terry Barnatt** explains when, why and how birds sing, including Blackbirds, Warblers, Nightingales and Curlews.

12 April

WILDLIFE WET AND DRY DOWNUNDER

Adventures of a naturalist in Australasia. **Francis Dipper** returns to tell the tale of her latest trip.

10 May

THE COLOUR OF HADDENHAM

Our own parish of Haddenham is full of wildlife according to local naturalist **Paul Mason**. An informative evening to end the season with.

OTHER EVENTS

7 May (to be confirmed)

CAKE AND PLANT SALE

The annual Haddenham Conservation Society fundraising 'bring and buy' stall – just in time for you to stock up with plants for house and garden, vegetables included. Don't throw away any surplus offshoots from your own garden: bring them to the stall instead; they are sure to make someone happy. Then reward yourselves with one (or several) of our delicious cakes. All proceeds will go towards speakers' fees at the winter talks.

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