

HADDENHAM CONSERVATION SOCIETY

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SUMMER 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

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.

July Ditch Biodiversity Workshop Success

Organised jointly by HCS, the Haddenham Level Drainage Commissioners and the Ouse Washes Landscape Partnership, the workshop was so heavily oversubscribed that a second day had to be organised. In the event over 100 people from 27 organisations attended, including several HCS members.

For a detailed report on the programme and the workshop look at the HCS website news dated 31 July. In addition, Paul Mason and Caroline Brown have reported on their experiences in the September *Village Voice*.



Workshop at Galls Drain.



Examining the plants.

As a relatively new Fenlander of 13 years standing I (Ed.) am, of course, aware that the landscape around me is laced with drains that are controlled for different purposes, but the water levels in them can sometimes seem illogical and, aside from duckweed, I would be hard-pressed to name a single ditch plant, so I came to the workshop with very low levels of knowledge – and left with a much greater understanding of my local environment.

These are a few of the fascinating facts that I gleaned from Michael Church, Chair of the Haddenham Level Drainage Commissioners (HLDC):

- The HLDC was founded in 1726 by an Act of Parliament.
- Any farmer with more than 16 hectares is entitled to be a commissioner.
- In 1740 five wind pumps managed the drainage. In 2011 a new station was built at Aldreth with three electric pumps and a weed screen cleaner.
- The HLDC manage 3,035 hectares of land, 30km of main drains, 17km of catchwater drainage to the Ouse Washes Reserve and 7 inlets from the OWR.
- Basically the drains are kept low in winter to prevent waterlogging and protect properties and higher in summer for irrigation. They are lightly dredged every three years or so to promote efficient water movement and to manage the special plant life in the drains.

And from Cliff Carson, Environmental Officer for the Middle Level Commissioners (MLC):

- There are 36+ local boards in the Middle Level (the central and largest portion of the Great Level of the Fens, reclaimed by drainage in the mid-17th century).
- The MLC are responsible for 70,000 hectares of catchment, 190km of main channels and 1,000km of Internal Drainage Board-managed drains.
- Banks are managed in three zones – the top is cut before the bird breeding season, the mid-zone is cut once a year after the breeding season and the reed edge,

which is very important for wildlife, is cut every other year or longer.

- In the last 5 years 150 holes have been drilled for Kingfishers, 82 bat boxes have been attached to pumping stations, 91 Barn Owl boxes have been erected, 1,770 metres of coir rolls, pre-planted with native marginal water plants, have been installed for voles and 70 Otter holts have been constructed. The results have produced real gains for wildlife.

Consultant botanist John Graham gave us an insight into his research on East Anglian arable drains, which are much less studied compared to the Somerset Levels, but are important for plants, beetles, Odonata, frogs and toads, Smooth Newts, Spined Loach and Water Voles. He

then introduced us to the six main categories of water plant:

- Floating plants (leaves only), such as duckweeds and waterlilies.
- Submerged plants with simple leaves
- Submerged plants with divided leaves
- Pondweeds
- Arrowhead and similar plants
- Aquatic bryophytes and algae

Finally we were given the opportunity to study examples in the classroom and on a field trip to Galls Drain and Clayton's Bridge/Adventurers Drain – both the most important ones in the local fens. All in all, a thoroughly worthwhile day.



Happy Families Card Game

Ann Biggs has now finished all the artwork for the 24 cards; the cards are printed and Wendy Lanman is filling 3,100 pouches and putting them through a laminator. The set is delightful and informative, as you can see from the illustrations below. Even better, go and see the originals in Haddenham Galleries. Alistair and Hazel Hull have kindly given them a whole shelf of exhibition space without charge, as Ann is selling them (at the bargain price of £28 each). The entire proceeds are to fund the next set for slightly older children, as we shall probably not benefit from the generous grant received from the Ouse Washes Landscape Partnership this time around.

We are producing 100 sets and shall be giving them to Haddenham and Wilburton primary schools to encourage the children to be interested in the wildlife around them and, hopefully, wish to protect it as they grow older. (See the Summer 2015 HCS newsletter for a full report on the project.)



Artwork by Ann Biggs.

From May to September...a Busy Time for Wildlife but Not for All

As the Wheatears that had passed through in good numbers went northward the Yellow Wagtails came in, but not as many as usual. It seems that only 3–4 pairs nested locally this year. For many years there has been no sign of Siskins breeding in the parish, but on 12 May a pair of Siskins bathed in a Duck Lane pond, on 27 June a juvenile appeared in a Froize End garden, hanging onto a feeder, and a month later there was a resplendent adult male in a Bury Lane garden. So had they bred locally after all?

On 12 May there was a message from Madeline Viall. 'High excitement at Bramley Grange yesterday – I noticed a swarm of bees in one of my trees and got in touch with a local bee keeper who has moved them into one of the hives. He believed he managed to get the Queen, so any stragglers should follow'.

Back on the 3 May our esteemed editor took a walk around 6.30am down Aldreth Causeway to the Old West River sighting 4–5 Whitethroats, a lone Reed Warbler by the bridge, 4 pairs of Tufted Ducks on the river and a pair of Kingfishers flying out from under the bridge. On 7 May Simon Stirrup 'took an hour's circular walk from Aldreth this morning. I had 10+ singing Whitethroats, 3 singing Lesser Whitethroats and a singing Cuckoo. Last week on the SE side of Aldreth I had a pair of Lesser Whitethroats'.

Coal Tits aren't the commonest of breeders here but one pair managed successfully in a Station Road garden. Several observers saw a flush of Holly Blue butterflies. Then on 13 May a pair of Bullfinches showed themselves in Wendy Lanman's garden on Guppy's Pond and later also in Jez Reeves' garden. They had obviously bred somewhere near. A pair of Treecreepers also showed, which is always a good sign. House Martins returned to the nests on the writer's house. But there was a sorry tale from Aldreth Road Orchard where a pair of distressed Great Spotted Woodpeckers found their young either dead or taken by a predator.

On 4 June there was a flurry of Painted Lady butterflies when the sun came out after a prolonged spell of dull weather. All the way from France no doubt, but not the mass invasion of a few years back.

4 July in North Fen Drove was an amazing day. For the first time in all the years I have been surveying the wildlife along this attractive drove, there has appeared, as if out of the blue, a large quantity of Hedge Bedstraw. I suppose this year's weather has awakened seeds that

have been lying dormant for possibly decades. There are a couple of places here with Lady's Bedstraw. Also a good quantity of Purple Vetch and some



Heartsease. Large numbers of Meadow Browns and occasional Green-veined Whites. A Bullfinch was heard and 19 post-breeding Lapwings spotted on a fallow field. In Galls Drain Brown Hawker, Four-spotted Chaser, Emperor and Hairy Dragonflies interacted at Dambank Bridge. Another Mink (the first had been seen a few days earlier by Two Pot farm) crossed the road with a young rat in its mouth. Has it got young? We hope not.

On 29 July Simon reported a younger Lesser Whitethroat in his Aldreth garden, and at Clayton's Bridge, a Tufted Duck female swam with 6 large ducklings. While he was standing on the bridge Two Brown Hawkers were egg laying on a log. One left the log and started to egg lay on a floating red plastic shoe! Then it started to egg lay on a floating stem. There was a loud splash as a small Pike attempted to grab it. Simon thinks the Hawker escaped.

The House Martins in the nest on my house have reared two broods totalling 4–5 young. On 22 August, at about noon, there were at least 30 circling and swooping around, going up to the nest and away again, for about 15 minutes and then they all departed. What were they doing?

On 5 August a dead Harvest Mouse was found in Aldreth High Street. At least that is evidence that they do breed here but finding them alive is very difficult.

On 22 August Barbara York saw a migrating Osprey flying over the water tower at midday.

On 3 September 2 Kingfishers hunted in Church Fen drain near Aldreth and out on Dambank a juvenile Marsh Harrier was observed and 200 Lapwings all hunkered down in a strong breeze, while in North Fen there were 2,000 more. Eight Grey Partridges and the first autumn Wheatear presaged the season to come.

Bug Hunt and Bush Bash

On 24 July about 30 parents and children enjoyed sweeping their nets and knocking the bushes in order to find intriguing little invertebrates and have them identified by Rob Mills. Before the start he showed everyone how to work their catching nets in a certain way in order to safely snare bugs and put them into collecting tubes for identification. No unusual species were found; mostly grasshoppers and various winged invertebrates. A small nest of Oak Bush Crickets was uncovered, which created some excitement. All had an enjoyable afternoon and our thanks go to Rob.

Rob is carrying out a full invertebrate survey of the Wildflower Meadow for the HPC Fairchild's Management Committee. We look forward to his findings.



What have we got?

Bat Rescue in Cambridgeshire

Contributed by Barbara York

"You do what?" is the usual reply to my answer when people ask what I spend my time doing these days. I, of course, have said I care for bats.

I have always been fascinated by bats. Most of their life and behaviour is hidden from us; they are essentially nocturnal creatures and their main method of communication is beyond our hearing range. Our knowledge about bats is limited, as they are tricky to study, although modern technology is starting to undercover some of their long-held secrets.

I've been a member of the Cambridgeshire Bat Group for over 20 years now but had very little involvement. Then I saw a plea in their newsletter asking for people to come forward to be trained as 'bat carers'. It was an opportunity to find out more about these enchanting creatures while hopefully being able to help some of them.

To become a registered bat carer you need firstly to be trained and then to be vaccinated against rabies. For the last few years the Bat Conservation Trust (BCT), the national-level umbrella organisation for local bat groups, has operated a helpline. A large percentage of the calls received relate to injured or grounded bats. Callers are given advice about the bat and whether and how to contain it. The helpline personnel (mainly volunteers) will then decide whether a bat carer needs to be involved and whether there are any available. In some areas, bat carers are very thin on the ground, and callers are advised to take the bat to a vet. Then, if appropriate, the vet will contact a local bat carer. Fortunately, in Cambridgeshire there's usually a carer available, although sometimes we travel quite a distance to pick up bats and I've rescued some in Norfolk and Suffolk.

Carer in action

I did my training in 2013, which was followed by the vaccinations, then there was the equipment to gather and finally I was put on to the register of official BCT carers! All carers are volunteers carrying out their role in their own time and largely at their own expense. I received confirmation of my inclusion on the register on 23 August, just after lunch, and I remember it well. Within a couple of hours I had received my first call to rescue a bat. Even with the training, nothing can prepare you for trying to deal with a nearly-dead bat that weighs 3g! Fortunately, after a couple of weeks' care he was released, flying off like the proverbial out of hell. A few days after rescuing the first bat, I received another call, and so it continued.

The highest number of bats I usually care for at one time is six, although this can vary depending on the level of care needed. Baby bats can require round-the-clock care for several days (and nights), so an ability to function with little or no sleep is a key skill! During training we were told that each bat would behave in an individual way and I confess to sceptical thoughts on this at the time! However, one of the many delights of rehabilitating bats is getting to know each one's personality.

Oliver, a Brown Long Eared Bat, was pulled from a flypaper as the finders thought he was dead. He was covered in adhesive, including in his eyes, ears and mouth, with infected wounds on his legs and wings. He developed dermatitis and hair loss. He required nearly six weeks of care but made a full recovery and was released.



Oliver was full of mischief.

The Bat Helpline number is 0345 1300 228. Please call this number if you find a grounded or injured bat, including when one has been attacked by a cat, even if it can flutter around. Try to contain the bat by using a cloth, or wear gloves and put it in a shoe-box or similar with a few breathing holes (but nothing bigger than ½cm). Do not attempt to pick up the bat with bare hands. The helpline will give more detailed advice.

One of the main reasons bats are taken into care is due to having been attacked by a cat. Unfortunately many don't survive as, although they don't have severe injuries, cat's saliva is toxic, and even a tiny amount in the bloodstream can cause infection. Cats' teeth are very fine and can pierce the body, leaving little evidence, but the damage is done. Without prompt help the bats will die, so even if they look unharmed, it's best to call for advice. BCT have some sound advice for cat owners on their website which will help to minimise bat casualties.

Some bat facts

The number of bat species worldwide is approximately 1,500. They are divided into two major groups: the fruit bats and the insectivorous or hunting bats. There are 17 regular species in the UK and all of them are insectivorous.

Our largest bat is the Noctule, once common in open countryside, but now less so. The smallest, and also the commonest by a long way, is the pipistrelle. Once thought to be a single species, our pipistrelle is now known to comprise two species: the Common Pipistrelle and the Soprano Pipistrelle. They have subtle physical differences and echolocate at slightly different frequencies. A fully grown pipistrelle weighs about 5g and can eat up to 3,000 midges and mosquitoes (their favourite food) per night. Imagine how it would be without them!

Most species here in the UK, as well as worldwide, are under threat. Loss and fragmentation of habitat are the main causes but building work, use of pesticides, chemical treatment of building materials, wind turbines, lighting, flypaper and cat attacks all have a significant detrimental impact on bat populations.

If you want to support the protection of our bats, or find out more, contact the Bat Conservation Trust 0345 1300 228 or look on their website www.bats.org.uk. The Cambridgeshire Bat Group can be contacted by email – info@cambsbat.co.uk. Membership is £7 a year per household. Both groups are on Facebook too.

News from Guppy's Pond

Contributed by Wendy Lanman

Watching plants migrate in the pond is so similar to watching animals, and even humans, migrate from hostile or sterile environments to more welcoming or fertile ones. It must be a fundamental condition of life on earth. I don't know what elements drive the changes in Guppy's Pond; some might be the result of our maintenance work, but surely not all. This is what has been happening over the last five or so years.

The top end of the pond, nearest the houses which border the drive leading from Station Road to Fairchild's Meadows, had a fair number of waterlilies for years, but they mysteriously disappeared. They had not been affected by any human intervention. The oxygenating weed also disappeared at about the same time.

So the old area was then clear water apart from an approximately 3-metre thick lining of *Phragmites* Reeds around the edges. Then, in summer, blanket weed appeared, which we had not seen in large quantities before. There was also duckweed, quickly gobbled up by the ducks. Then the reeds proliferated, threatening to close up the channel into the larger area of Guppy's Pond. They were full of chattering Reed Warblers in summer but would eventually have led to a silting up of that part of the pond, so they were carefully sprayed to reduce the area they covered, but not destroy them completely. The Reed Warblers moved up a few hundred metres to the next clump and chattered away there.

Slowly, the oxygenating weed started to come back and, even more slowly, so did the waterlilies. Then the Reedmace arrived, a few last year, just testing the area left vacant by the reeds. It must have been both welcoming and fertile, because this year they are back in force, rapidly taking over the whole area. This year also the oxygenating weed has thrived to such an extent that it has covered the whole area and has held up the equally thriving blanket weed well after it had died down.



Water Bistort.

On the water's edge we now have the large leaves of Water Sorrel as a new migrant and the pretty pink flowers of Water Bistort (*Persicaria amphibia*) floating in the water itself. So much interest and variety, each migrant preparing the area for the next to thrive in when they eventually move on, enriching the pond as they do.

On the fauna side this summer – no swans at all, the geese didn't stay, and both Moorhens and Coots at this end had one brood of four chicks each, but none survived. A family of eleven ducks still visits regularly and a few other individuals fly in and out. On the other side of the pond, where most of the houses are, there has hardly been any visible wildlife at all. One exciting event, though: not one, but two enormous Pike were seen together! And, ever uplifting, Kingfishers are seen nearly every day, sometimes two together, sometimes adults – and sometimes youngsters. We even saw a Treecreeper

picking insects off the bark of a white willow only a few metres away from us. We have also seen a Harvest Mouse and hope that the visiting cats have not been able to catch it. They certainly wouldn't be able to catch the super-fast Water Shrews zooming about on the bank between their many burrow holes.

Boating Day



Waiting for the boat.

This had to be the best ever: around 40 people came to enjoy being rowed around Guppy's Pond! The weather was perfect and, although an actual queue developed, nobody seemed to mind the wait as they chatted contentedly with a drink in one hand and a biscuit or cake in the other – young Molly Dower and her even younger sister Kate brought three large tins of cupcakes and flapjacks that they had made that morning especially for the occasion.

The two boats were out constantly, never stopping for two and a half hours. The rowers had been advertised as 'powerful volunteer chauffeurs' and they certainly lived up to their reputation. John Burgess, in particular, was alone to row in his boat, while Charley Stather and Liam Dower shared the time in theirs.

Many thanks to all who helped make this such a pleasant, happy afternoon for so many people.



Off at last!

Flycatcher Uncertainty

Contributed by Paul Mason

Spotted Flycatchers have been nesting in a certain hole in a certain wall in Haddenham for at least 25 years, and probably a lot longer, but in 2016 none appeared keen to use it. Why?

Interestingly a pair of Coal Tits chose to nest in a different hole in the same wall this year but were done and dusted rearing a family long before any decent flycatcher wanted to start. So that couldn't have been the reason the flycatchers didn't. There were some doubts last year when it appeared the male had, for some reason, stopped helping raise the 2015 family and the female was doing her best to raise three young. Anyway the pulli (nestlings) were ringed and then had to make their own way in a year that was wet and cool, meaning that the insects and larvae they would normally have fed on were in very short supply. Some males are fickle but the possibility of the local Sparrowhawk being involved can't be ruled out.

So what happened in 2016 then? Well, in spite of a chance sighting of a singleton spotted by Guppy's Pond on 15 May none were subsequently seen at the traditional site. As time went on we all became worried that there would be no more flycatchers breeding in Haddenham. It is known that the species is declining in East Anglia as habitat disappears. Climate change gets the blame too. Then a family party was seen feeding around a bean field next to Chewells Lane. The sighting was speedily confirmed by Ian Dickerson. Another report came that a family party was in the Old Burial Ground in Church Lane. Perhaps they thought they would visit our HCS wildlife



area in there! And a family party was seen hunting in gardens near to Linden End. Subsequently, a single bird was seen catching butterflies on a Buddleia bush right by the traditional nest hole in Station Road. Was that bird sussing out next year's nesting possibilities? And where did they nest in 2016?

Co-incidentally a single bird was observed out on the open fen on Lakes Drove, hunting insects in the lee of an isolated clump of bushes on 15 August, a very windy day. Whether that was one of our families we can't of course tell, but things had turned out well on the flycatcher front after all.

See the website for pictures of the 2016 wildlife events in full colour.



Lakes Drove

Contributed by Wendy Lanman

This is the drove between Cut Bank and the river that HCS, especially Paul Mason, had fought so hard to reinstate to its original width in 1999 after it had been severely encroached upon for several years by the farmer working alongside it. I was riding down the drove with a friend last spring when I noticed that the concrete boundaries were ploughed out (the second ones since the width had been reinstated, as the first ones had been removed).



After many lengthy email exchanges, Karen Champion, the Highways person in charge of maintaining the bridleways, paths and drives over a vast area within East Anglia, visited the area and recorded the correct legal boundaries using GPS readings so that it will be easy to reinstate the width of the drove should encroachment happen again. But we must all be vigilant and make sure that any future attempts at gaining land at the expense of the drove should be stopped. These drives are not only

pleasant paths through the fen for walkers and riders; they are also important corridors for wildlife.

Old Burial Ground

On 17 July we had a lovely sunny day for the annual hay rake. A small group of volunteers, rakes, pitch forks and wheelbarrows at the ready, worked extremely hard to clear the area of cut vegetation.



Good News for Fairchild's Wildflower Meadow

Contributed by Jez Reeve

This year the Fairchild's Meadow wildflower count on 17 July was greatly assisted by having an expert botanist to help with the identification, which speeded up the counting. It also enabled us to do (x2) two 5-metre square counts. We did one at the bottom of the wildflower meadow and one up on the north-facing slope. They produced slightly different results, as you would expect, due to the variations in soil and location, coupled with the very local competition amongst the plants themselves. In the lower square increased amounts of Common Knapweed and Yellow Rattle were recorded, whilst in the upper square there was much more Meadow Vetchling and a similar variety of grasses. Many walkers had commented on the magnificent display of Meadow Buttercup that immediately preceded the count. But what does this all mean?

Since 2005, when the decision to try to create a wildflower meadow was taken, all the management and planting in this field have concentrated on improving the environment for wildflowers and wildlife. In 2013 Natural England wrote a note to explain the importance of unimproved neutral grassland, including hay meadows, known under the National Vegetation Classification (NVC) system as MG5 grassland. They reported that this type of meadow, which had been commonplace in the 1960s, was now rare with less than 6,000 hectares remaining. Creation of lowland meadows, including MG5, is an objective of the England Biodiversity Strategy (Biodiversity 2020). The characteristics of MG5 grassland are listed as a series of wildflower/herbs and grasses:

Characteristic herbs include:

- Common Knapweed, Oxeye Daisy, Bird's-foot Trefoil, Lady's Bedstraw, Common Sorrel, Yellow Meadow Vetchling, Meadow Buttercup, Ribwort Plantain, Cowslip, Common Cat's-ear

Characteristic grasses include:

- Crested Dog's-tail, Quaking Grass, Sweet Vernal Grass, Yellow Oat-grass, Red Fescue, Common Bent

All of the species listed as characteristic of MG5, except the Quaking Grass, have been recorded in Fairchild's Meadows over the last four years, some species on the increase, like the Knapweed, Yellow Rattle, and Red Clover. Obviously weather conditions play a huge part in the variation of the count each year – the Ragged Robin comes out earlier in the season, for instance. The news is good for Fairchild's Wildflower Meadow. Based on the results so far it certainly looks like we have a successful management regime. Next year we hope to engage the use of the MAVIS (Modular Analysis of Vegetation Information System) computer program in order to have our results verified.

There is a full list of the wildflowers and grasses on the HCS website. There is also a more comprehensive version of this article, giving the domin scores in numbers for the survey plots.

Many thanks to surveyors Chris Prescott, Chris Ray, Jez Reeve, and Ann Sherwood.



What plant do we have here?

Annual Subscriptions

It would gladden our Treasurer's heart and simplify her task if members paid their annual subscriptions promptly in January. Otherwise, reminders have to be printed and stapled to newsletters until the subscription has been paid – a small matter you might think, but tedious.

You could help the HCS and avoid falling into arrears or being dropped from the membership list by filling out a standing order form. Use the form below, ask for a form at one of the monthly meetings, or download a form from the HCS website.

Haddenham Conservation Society

c/o The Treasurer
21 Twentypence Rd
Wilburton
CB6 3RN



Standing Order Instruction

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Account number **00073656** Sort code **30-93-05**

Your reference: HCS (to appear on **your** statement)

Payee's reference (please insert surname and initials - to appear on **our** statement)

Signed:

Date:



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.

11 October

LIONS, TIGERS AND BIRDS OF INDIA

Wildlife photographer **Tim Loseby** has seen these big cats at close hand, and includes some other fascinating species.

8 November

A YEAR IN THE LIFE OF NORFOLK'S WILDLIFE

Steve Cale, artist and lecturer, knows Norfolk well, as he will show us on this return visit to HCS.

13 December

'FACING EXTINCTION'

20 species on the brink of extinction are showcased from the world's rarest birds, and the exciting race to save them.

Paul Donald, Principal Conservation Scientist from RSPB Sandy has something to say about those that are on the brink and how to get them back to a safe place.

14 February

WILDLIFE IN CAMBRIDGESHIRE'S TRADITIONAL ORCHARD

Dr Val Perrin from English Nature has explored these secret places and will show us what was to be found in them. Perhaps our only working orchard in the parish will be one of them.

14 March

GIVING WILDLIFE THE EDGE

Managing Fenland Waterways for Water Voles, Kingfishers and other wildlife. **Cliff Carson** from Middle Level Commission has been working hard to make sure they have a home here.

11 April

DOVE STEP – A JOURNEY FOR TURTLE DOVES

Johnny Rankin, writer and follower of the beautiful birds, has put rings on some of his Suffolk birds. Where do they go and will they come back? Do they pass through the Maltese killing fields?

9 May

THE WILDLIFE OF TEES VALLEY

Geof Lee comes from this terrific place with unique flora that is well worth a visit. Visit early and you'll find many unique and very local flowers, birds and animals. From the moors to the sea it's a golden place.