

NATURAL HISTORY GROUP
2015 SUMMARY OF EVENTS

1. Wildflower Walks

Two walks led by Peter Williams, to identify spring flowers, were enjoyed by a number of members. These walks usually throw up something new and hearing the call of a cuckoo was a highlight. A rare event nowadays!

A wayward shot at golf often leads to new discoveries such as a profusion of Goldenrod in late summer in the coppiced area to the left of the 15th fairway.

Also, an excellent example of a Beefsteak fungus in the hollow bowl of the oak tree on the right of the 9th fairway.

2. Bird I.D. Walk

This walk demonstrated the significant knowledge of many members interested in this topic.

3. Wild Flower Meadow

This area to the right of the ladies 16th tee, planted with wild flower seeds, was initially disappointing but flourished later with yellow Corn Marigold interspersed with a few blue Cornflower and red Poppies and continued to bloom to the end of October.

4. Bat Population in Llwyni Wood

I spent two interesting evenings during August with a licensed bat worker (Steve Davison) when he recorded, using a bat detector, the calls of five species of bat. The following week, using a mist net to trap bats, he caught 8 bats which included two additional species. Some of the bats were juveniles suggesting there may be summer roosts in the wood. Considering there are only eighteen British species of bat to identify, over a third of the British population is encouraging.

Throughout the second evening we were constantly aware of the call of a Barn Owl which came to rest in trees above where we were trapping - thus confirming the presence of Barn Owls on site.

5. Grass Seed

We have received, from Gwent Wildlife Trust, seed harvested from the fields at Great Traston Meadows (formerly Monsanto site) which will be scattered in areas of deep rough to increase the diversity of plants and to enhance the appearance of these areas.

Finally, keep on looking and recording your observations so that we can keep the species list up to date.

Watch this space in 2016!

Henry Davidson