



# Linkline

Summer 2014 Issue 46

Newsletter of the Gainsborough Area Group of the Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust

## **NEWS FROM THE AGM:**

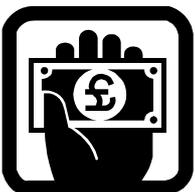


After appealing for volunteers, the Committee was pleased to welcome Stuart Watson as a new member at the AGM which was held on Wednesday 23 April 2014. We hope Stuart's association with this jolly band of workers will be a long and happy one. However we also said goodbye to Linda Woodward who has served on the Committee so efficiently for many years, latterly as Treasurer and Programme Secretary, so those two posts must now be filled, not necessarily by just one multi-tasking person though! After fronting the meetings and chairing the Committee meetings so loyally for 5 years Jean Blades kindly agreed to make the daring leap from Vice-chairman to Chairman. Bravo Jean – and thank you!

The AGM was, as usual, completed quite swiftly and was followed by an introduction to The Dormouse Project at Chambers Farm Wood near Wragby which we shall be visiting later in the summer. The evening was rounded off with a supper of homemade vegetable soup, rolls, plum bread and cheese and the usual cups of tea and coffee. Thanks to everyone who provided and served the food – and cleared away and washed up afterwards.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS ARE: Jean Blades (Chairman), Joy Bannister (Secretary/ Linkline Editor/Refreshments), Hilary Harris (Membership/Mailing/Sales Officer), Clare Holmes (Bird food sales), Richard Williamson (Raffle organiser), Dave Stockley (Publicity/Linkline producer/Webmaster).

HELP NEEDED: Vacancies for a Vice-chairman, Treasurer, Programme Secretary and Door Warden all need filling, so how about it? Please come and join us– only two Committee meetings a year and they're great social occasions once the business part is over! Ring Jean (01427 838325) or Joy (01427 628457) – they'll be delighted to hear from you.



### **AREA GROUP MAKES A DONATION**

At the AGM retiring Treasurer Linda Woodward reported a healthy balance in the Area Group's accounts, so it was agreed that £200 should be forwarded to Trust HQ at Horncastle.

### **AREA GROUP'S SUPER SALESWOMAN**



During the 17 years that Area Group committee member Clare Holmes of Lea has been selling bird food on behalf of the Trust her sales have realised an amazing £22,000! That represents an awful lot of forays up and down Mellow Cottage's cellar steps where the food has, until recently, been kept. Well done, Clare! All profits from these sales go to the Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust's central funds.

# **SIGHTINGS & SNIPPETS:**

## **What you have seen and heard .....**



- \* There were several reports of Swallows in our area from early April onwards. The first Swallow to be notified was at Green Lane, Lea on 4 April followed by ones at Laughton on 9 and 10 April.
- \* A Cuckoo was heard on 20 April near North Warren Road, Gainsborough and at Laughton on 23 April.
- \* There have been various reports of tipsy Bumble bees during early spring. These creatures appeared to be drunk, having overdosed on a heady mixture of sunshine and pollen!
- \* At the beginning of May Cinnabar Moths were seen in a previously felled but now regenerating plot of Forestry Commission land close to Laughton village. This was good news indeed, especially for local horse and pony owners, as the caterpillars of these moths feed on – and will totally strip – ragwort plants which otherwise thrive in this sandy area and are toxic to all equine species. The caterpillars, incidentally, are those wriggly little chaps in orange and black horizontally striped rugby shirts.
- \* A Lea member reports seeing a Hummingbird Hawk Moth in her garden in the middle of May.
- \* The recent wet weather followed by a warm spell has sent some plants into overdrive. An unmown Laughton orchard has produced a veritable thicket of Common Cleavers (known in some areas as Goose Grass) round its margins as well as super-jumbo-size Dandelion plants with leaves in excess of a foot long and 3 inches wide at their base!

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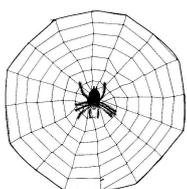
## **TRIBUTE TO GRAHAM BANNISTER**

### **Jean Blades, Area Group Chairman, writes:**

In April Joy's husband Graham sadly passed away. Graham had been a Trust member for 38 years and had served on the committee at various times as Publicity Officer, Treasurer and latterly as Door Warden. He was a pillar of society, always there, always reliable. A quiet, reserved and unassuming man – but when one talked to him he had a great knowledge and intellect on a wide range of subjects and was such an interesting person to be with. They say only God is perfect, but Graham was a perfect gentleman in every way. A family man, and I am sure he was loved and respected by all who knew him. Personally, it was a pleasure and a privilege to have known him.

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## **Gainsborough Area Group On The InterWeb!**



You'll find lots of interest including details of meetings, local sightings and a photo gallery on our Area Group website by going to: [www.gainsboroughwildlifetrust.webs.com](http://www.gainsboroughwildlifetrust.webs.com)

*To contribute please e-mail our Webmaster: Dave Stockley on [gainsboroughlwt@gmail.com](mailto:gainsboroughlwt@gmail.com)*

# Notes From An Uphill Garden



Two members living in uphill Gainsborough have once again kindly allowed us access to their nature diary. Their garden, which is quite small, backs onto some old deciduous woodland and has been thoughtfully designed to encourage wildlife throughout the year. Here are some late spring entries in the diary:

## **2014 Spring**

23 March – A pair of Buzzards calling as they circle over the wood. This causes a panic amongst the Wood Pigeons and an immediate scrambling of the Crow Patrol – a local pair that probably nest in the wood launch into the attack with gusto and the harassed Buzzards drift away eastwards.

11 April – First sighting of a male Orange Tip, a good deal earlier than last year's first such appearance on 20 April. The Bee Fly was first on the wing this year on 30 March, contrasting even more markedly with the earliest sighting in 2013 of 15 April. The mild winter has also clearly enabled many Small Tortoiseshells and Peacocks to survive and they enjoy the nectar of the early heather. The bubbling song of the Blackcap can be heard in the wood, Wood Anemones are fully in bloom and apple buds are breaking.

21 April – Speckled Wood in the garden for the first time, feeding on Honesty flowers.

18 May – An immature male Broad-bodied Chaser active in the garden, golden yellow at this stage, its pale blue colour yet to develop. It perches several times on foliage, allowing a close look then takes off to hunt high up amongst the oaks on the wood margin. Starlings making their harsh, chattering calls high above. Distant Cuckoo.

20 May – A Hornet quarters the Hawthorn blossom, no doubt in search of insect prey rather than nectar. Five Common Newts are visible in the pond, lazily paddling around at the surface. Several young Long-tailed Tits call constantly to one another as they flitter along the hedge.

30 May – Two Magpies sunning on the neighbours' roof, spreading mainly their long, iridescent tails but also their wings from time to time, flattening themselves with heads raised and beaks agape.

3 June – The plentiful rain and warmth have given rise to vigorous growth everywhere. This year's Teasel rosettes have launched their stems skywards like Saturn V rockets in recent days and look set to break all previous height records.

*Thank you, wildlife watchers, for this delightful account. If anyone keeps a similar diary in another location we would be very pleased to hear from them - Ed.*



## **Dates For Your Diary - FIELD MEETING**

**SATURDAY 30 AUGUST 2014:** Dormouse Project - 10am Meeting at Chambers Farm Wood near Wragby. A guided walk to learn more about the work that the Project does - and hopefully see some dormice.

*Please contact Linda on 01427 614915 for more information or e-mail: [woodentops@darter.plus.com](mailto:woodentops@darter.plus.com)*

# Dates For Your Diary - INDOOR MEETINGS



**WEDNESDAY 24 SEPTEMBER:** Farming with Wildlife - Andrew Parsons ARPS DPAGB

Andrew will be telling us how he encourages all sorts of wildlife onto his farm. The talk will be illustrated with his wonderful photographs.

**WEDNESDAY 15 OCTOBER:** We've recently said Goodbye to feathered summer visitors as they've left for far away destinations so, appropriately, Steve Lovell's illustrated talk tonight is 'The Miracle of Migration'.

**WEDNESDAY 19 NOVEMBER:** This evening we are off to the mysterious East with Geoff Trinder who will be our guide on a tour of the sub-continent - yes, it's all aboard for a passage to India!

*All indoor meetings are held at Morton Village Hall and begin at 7.30pm. Members and non-members equally welcome. Entrance by donation (minimum £1.00 which includes tea/coffee and biscuits. Raffle, sales table and bird food sales (please pre-order - see below). Volunteers to help serve refreshments and clear up afterwards are much appreciated!*

**PROGRAMME SECRETARY: We need one urgently - could you help, please?**



## Bird Food Sales:

Our local distributor is Clare Holmes. Regular customers are still welcome to call at her home as before, but if you wish to buy bird food from the stall at indoor meetings please pre-order from her in good time - 01427 613128 - and she will bring your order to the meeting. In the past Clare has often lugged quantities of bird food to meetings, sales have been poor... and she has had to lug the stuff home again. By pre-ordering you will save Clare much time and effort.

Weight	Peanuts	Mixed seed	Black sunflowers	Niger seed	Sunflower hearts
Kg	£	£	£	£	£
2.5	6.75	3.00	4.15	5.30	5.50
5	12.50	5.25	7.30	9.20	10.25
20	-	20.00	26.00	-	40.00
25	55.00	-	-	42.00	-
Fat Balls	30p each				
Charcoal	4.75 per bag				

*Please note supplies and prices are subject to availability and change.*

Please send your wildlife sightings or other info to the Editor, Joy Bannister, 01427 628457 or giban786@btinternet.com



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