

# NATURE SOCIETY NEWSLETTE



June 2017

Issue 5

NATURE SOCIETY  
Making a real difference

## WEEKEND EVENT

May 5th/6th saw our first public event of the year and what a great time was had by all. At least when we got over the wet, cold setting up on Saturday. Lots of interesting things going on. Not least Mr Buzz putting in an appearance. Burton Wildlife Rescue, DWT and Bumblebee Conservation Trust all had a very good attendance. Bart the Harris Hawk on Sunday was a great draw and behaved superbly. Busy in the information area with lots of exhibits and handouts relating to all things bees and mammals. We had lots of questions about the bones, shells, mammal poo and owl pellets. Photography competition went very well with a Nuthatch from John Harmin and a Ladybird from Jane Hunt taking the prizes. Now looking forward to next event in August.

## INSECT HOTEL

The first of three insect hotels has been assembled and put in place. Filled with cones, twigs, straw, logs etc. it should be a great place for all our little creepy crawlies. Have a look as you go around the Middle field along the rejuvenated hedgerow.

## PLANTING

The plants which were put in only a few months ago are doing really well in the hedge as is the young Hazel Copse.

Sadly, the rabbits thought we had put out wild flower plants especially for them. However, those in the Butterfly Nursery had protection so are doing a lot better. Not to be deterred we shall re-plant next year and foil the rabbits this time.

We have had some interest in moths seen in and around the Cottage Garden area so here is some information about them to help us understand more.

## MINT MOTH *Pyrausta aurata*

March to October. England, Wales, Southern Scotland.

Small brown moth, usually has a single yellow spot on forewing. Found in gardens, grasslands, open woodland and marshland. Usually occurs near mint or thyme.



There are a few related species similar to this dainty little moth, although it is distinguished from these by its generally darker and more unicolorous forewing with the single conspicuous golden yellow spot. There are two generations, occurring from mid-April to June and again from July to mid-September. It has also been found in mid-March and sometimes into early October. Flies actively in sunshine and also at night. During the day adults are often found sitting on the leaves of Mint or related species.



The caterpillar feeds on various mints including garden cultivars, Cat-mint, Calamint, Marjoram, Clary, Culinary Thyme and probably also Wild Thyme.

Associated with chalk and limestone grassland, quarries, woodland, marshland, amongst waterside vegetation and, increasingly, gardens.

## POPLAR HAWK-MOTH (*Laothoe populi*)

This resident moth flashes reddish-brown patches on underwings if disturbed.

Large wingspan 6.5-9cm. The wings can sometimes have a pinkish/purplish tinge. Adult can be seen flying between May and early August. Usually only one generation, but a partial second can occur in the south between August and September. Does not feed. Female comes to light before midnight, the male after midnight, in greater numbers. Rests with abdomen curved up and hindwings further forward than the forewing. Larva June to early October. Feeding on



Poplars, Aspen, Sallows and willows, especially Goat and Grey Willows.

Keep those sightings coming in everyone.