

## Our Vision:

A Parish and its people that are enriched by wildlife, where people enrich the natural world and help to safeguard it for the future.

## Our aims are to:

Share knowledge of the wonderful wildlife in the Parish of Chudleigh.

Raise awareness through events and activities that involve and motivate the community.

Encourage positive action by local residents to attract and sustain more wildlife in the town and Parish of Chudleigh.

Conserve and enhance our existing wildlife and local habitats, features and species populations, through working together and with others.

Survey & record what we have, holding and sharing our wildlife records with others.

Advise groups and individuals on biodiversity and land management for wildlife.

Monitor development proposals that may result in damage to important wildlife.

Be environmentally and socially aware and responsible in what we do.

## Interested in joining us?

If you would like to be added to our mailing list, are interested in joining the committee, or would like to volunteer, please contact [chudleigh.wild@gmail.com](mailto:chudleigh.wild@gmail.com)

# Family Event!

This year, due to popular demand, we are holding two family evenings in the DWT Bat Fields (off Oldway)

**12th & 26th August**  
**at 7.30 pm**

Devon Bat Conservation & Research Group will be monitoring the flight routes of the bats and we hope to catch some to show to everyone.

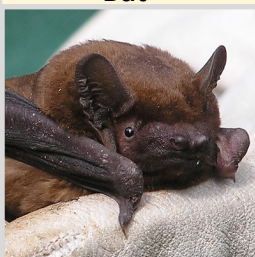
We will also show you how to use a simple bat detector to hear the sounds the bats make as they echolocate, to find their way around.

We will have a few other wild things on display, which we hope will interest everyone, and of course our famous bat biscuits for the kids.

**Come and join us, have fun, learn more!**

**We hope to show you the animals below**

**Bat**



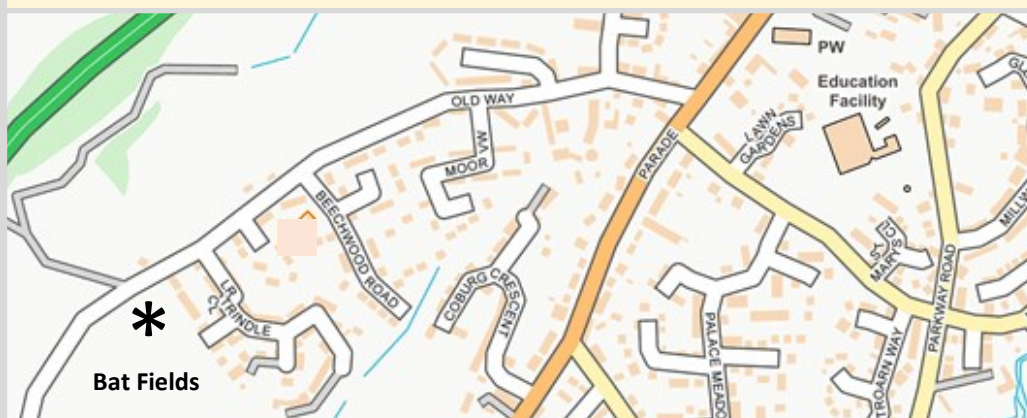
**Harvest Mouse**



**Slow Worm**



**Bank Vole**



**Find out more about Chudleigh Wild on the Town Council website:**

[www.chudleigh-tc.gov.uk/chudleigh-wild/](http://www.chudleigh-tc.gov.uk/chudleigh-wild/)



## Swift Watch

Each year, in July, we invite people to join us to look at and count, the swifts around the Town Hall. On July 6th & 8th a number of people gathered to watch the amazing aerial display that we associate with this bird.

After the re-roofing of the Town Hall we put up a number of swift boxes, both there and at the rear of the Globe pub. As is so often the case, none of the swifts appear to have moved into the boxes yet, although sparrows have taken up residence. However, Swifts are finding places to nest under the eaves of the Town Hall, as well as other places in town.

Apart from the sites on the Town Hall, they were seen using the gable end of Gill's vegetable shop and the back of the Globe function room.

### Swift nest sites on the Town Hall



Around 20 Swifts have been seen regularly over the town, and are still around for the time being at least. Their arrival and departure dates are the same most years, almost to the day. It will be interesting to see if, due to the late spring, they hang around for a bit longer this year, before they fly south to Africa.

On July 6th the Swift watchers

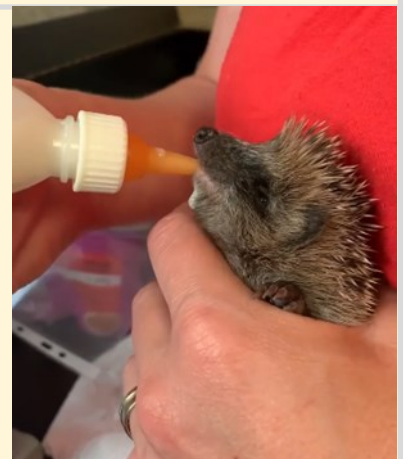
also saw one of our Chudleigh Peregrine Falcons flying over (they reared four young this year).

*Tessa Frost*

## Hedgehog News

In June two hoglets, named Betty and Pear, were found in distress in Chestnut Crescent and were taken to Claire Larkins, who runs the Chudleigh Hog rescue centre. Good news! They have been released back where they were found, in a wildlife friendly garden (or jungle!). After exploring the garden (and Jonathan's hedgehog house and feeder) for a few days, they are now roaming further afield and can occasionally be spotted back at the feeder or asleep in the undergrowth, where it's nice and cool.

If you spot any Hedgehogs, do log them on the [bighedgehogmap.org](http://bighedgehogmap.org) run by the excellent 'Hedgehog Street'. Please leave a bowl of water out in your garden year round for Hedgehogs and all the other wildlife.



*Barbara Steele (Chudleigh Prickly Hedge)*





## Digging a pond for wildlife

So many of us have been looking for ways to make our gardens more wildlife friendly. Most of us have been spending more time in our gardens over the last 18 months and have had time to reflect on the state of nature and the effects of climate change. Having spent time carefully choosing the best plants for nectar and pollen, we can now enjoy the beautiful insects that are finding their way into our gardens.



A number of people have decided to introduce a pond into their garden for the first time. It seems like a big step, but the benefits to wildlife are huge and the pleasure of watching the beautiful dragonflies and damselflies that will move quickly in, far outweigh the effort it takes.

One local resident, with just the ideal garden, decided that while she had a mini digger on site, she would take the plunge. She asked for our advice and we enthusiastically re-modelled the hole left by the digger into a fairly large, but manageable garden pond.

We set to, lined it, first with old carpet and then with pond liner, filled it with water, some tap, some rainwater, and finally planted it with native plants donated from the local area. All in all we were delighted with the results and hope that the family will have hours of fun watching the wildlife it brings to their garden.

Ponds don't have to be as big as this one and there are various pre-moulded liners available. If you want more information on how to dig a pond visit:

<https://british-dragonflies.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/NEW-LOGO-2019-Dig-a-pond-for-Dragonflies.pdf>

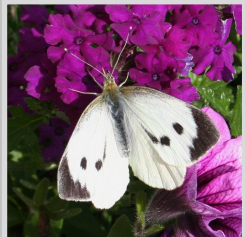




## Things to look out for in August

Learning about wildlife can be a daunting process if you try to find out about too many things at once. As with most learning, it's best to take 'bite size' pieces and so, for those who are not yet feeling confident, here are some things to look out for this month.

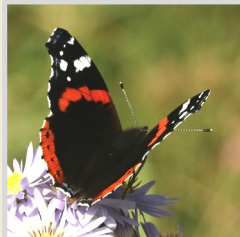
Let's start with the butterflies that are around at the moment, and that you are likely to see, either in your garden, or on your family walks.



**Large White**  
(in the garden or allotment)



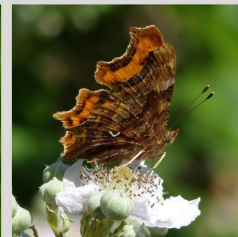
**Peacock**  
(in the garden and other open spaces)



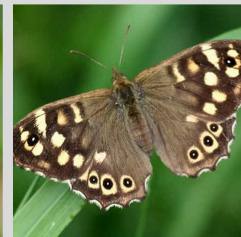
**Red Admiral**  
(in the garden and other open spaces)



**Common Blue**  
(over flower-rich meadows)

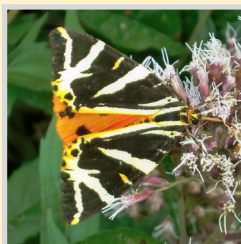


**Comma**  
(gardens, hedges and woodland)



**Speckled Wood**  
(hedgerows and woodland edge)

Some other smart insect to look for.



**Jersey Tiger Moth**  
(in the garden)



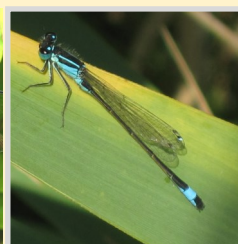
**Soldier Beetle**  
(on hogweed and other umbellifers)



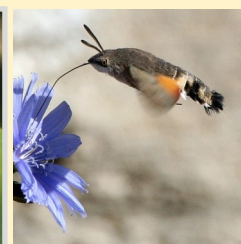
**Common Darter**  
(at or near ponds)



**Southern Hawker**  
(by ponds or woodland rides)



**Blue-tailed Damselfly**  
(by ponds, a small damselfly)

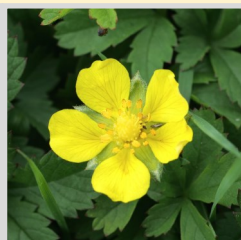


**Humming-bird Hawk-moth**  
(hovering at nectar-rich flowers)

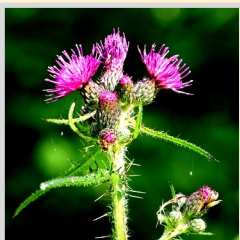
Can you find these wildflowers?



**Black Knapweed**



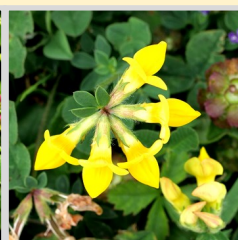
**Creeping Cinquefoil**



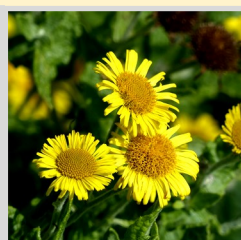
**Marsh Thistle**



**Marjoram**



**Bird's-foot-trefoil**



**Fleabane**

We will always do our best to identify plants and animals for you. Just send a photo to:

[Info.chudleighwild@gmail.com](mailto:Info.chudleighwild@gmail.com)





## A call for volunteers!

Volunteers have managed to look after the insect-friendly plants in flower beds along Lawn Drive, the 'Bat Garden' (off Rock Road), in Culver Green, at the Cider Press, the 'Sensory Garden' (under the Twin Oaks) and along the wire fence at the Bridgelands Bridge end of Millstream Meadow. Well done, and thank you to our loyal team of volunteers.

With so many areas to manage we welcome helpers of all ages, so please let us know if you can join us, even if it's only occasionally.

There has been a great show of spring flowers in all of these areas, and the added bonuses of native Daffodils, Bluebells and Snowdrops on the wooded bank at Millstream Meadow.

The flowers you will see now include Field Scabious, Yarrow, Fennel, Marjoram, and Elecampane, all of which you will find at the Bat Garden. Musk Mallow,

Knapweed and Oxeye Daisy are over, but the Hemp Agrimony and Sedum are still to come. Stand still near any of these flowers on a sunny morning and you will hear the buzzing of the many varieties of bees and hoverflies, and maybe see a sprinkling of butterflies.

The grass raking has been a bit delayed and we expect our next cut in a few weeks, so we will rake again, still leaving some of it long until the final cut in Autumn.

We will collect wildflower seeds and sow more Yellow Rattle on the long grass areas. It's an annual, so it needs seeding every year, but will gradually weaken the stronger grasses, allowing more wildflowers to flourish. The number of different species of plants is increasing every year. Perhaps you could have a go at counting them for yourselves and let us know how many you find.

You may know of other open spaces near you that could be made into wildflower areas. Let us know and we may be able to help you to plan and plant them.

*Tessa Frost*





## STOP PRESS: Spotted today!

We love to hear about the things you are seeing in and around Chudleigh, but this photo came as a big surprise.

The Nightjar, a nocturnal summer migrant to Britain from, Africa is usually heard giving its strange, churring song in heathland and young forestry areas as the light fades. They are beautifully camouflaged, very secretive and come out at dusk to catch moths. This bird was spotted and photographed by Roger Auster, at about 9 am on 4th August. It was sitting on the roof of his outhouse in New Exeter Street—not typical habitat for this species! The bird is most likely to be a youngster, perhaps migrating south.

Nightjars can be seen in various areas of Haldon and at Stover Country Park between May and August or September. The males have white wing tips which they use to attract females and can be seen and heard 'wing-clapping' - slapping their wings together over their body. Their churring can be heard over quite a distance and is used to find out how many territories are present in an area.

Chudleigh Wild has been asked by Forestry

England to help with surveying Nightjars next year at Haldon, which is a nationally-important area for the species. Surveys are done over two or three evening visits. If anyone is willing to help looking at sites within the Parish, please contact me at [davesmall@btinternet.com](mailto:davesmall@btinternet.com).



*Dave Smallshire*

Our email address is:

[info.chudleighwild@gmail.com](mailto:info.chudleighwild@gmail.com)

Our webpage is:

[www.chudleigh-tc.gov.uk/chudleigh-wild/](http://www.chudleigh-tc.gov.uk/chudleigh-wild/)

Chair: Dave Smallshire

Treasurer: Rod Blackshaw

Secretary: Sue Smallshire

