

Warwick Natural History Society

Snippets

No. 73

20 October 2022

The Society is now on Twitter! Follow us on [@WarwickNatHist](https://twitter.com/WarwickNatHist)

An unusual sighting in Warwick centre on the 4th October – a Wheatear in a garden near St Mary's Church.

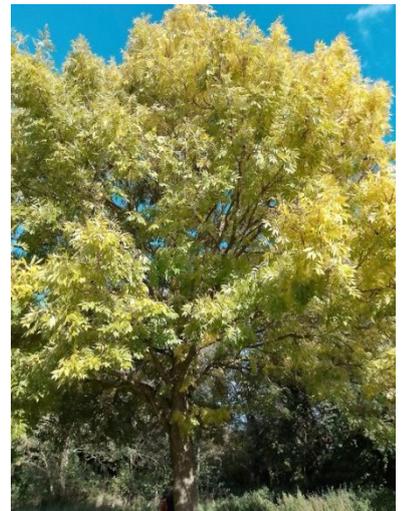
6th October RT

Spotted by Lesley and myself on a window on our way home from the evening WNHS meeting – the dreaded Box tree moth.

6th October BW

On October 8 we joined a large group, including a number of our members, on an autumn walk in Priory Park, Warwick. Our leader was Lesley Hall and it was a very interesting and enjoyable walk in which we learnt about the various trees within the park. The attached picture is a Golden Ash, (*Fraxinus excelsior aurea*), which we hope is resistant to ash dieback disease.

10th October RD



THE WOODLAND TRUST IS 50 years old today!

From its start around a Devon kitchen table in 1972, the Trust has since planted 55 million trees, restored 85,000 acres of damaged woodland, owns more than 1,000 woods across the UK and has over 300,000 members. It has faced challenges from development threatening ancient woodland, tree pests and diseases targeting whole tree species and now the climate and nature crisis but will continue to support the UK's woodland.

13 October - Doorbell rang to reveal 2 people peering furtively at the hedge and ground at the end of my short drive, seeking permission to explore my front garden on the Radford Road.

They were a University of Warwick professor and acolyte looking for garden orb spiders as part of a research project into the effect of pollution on insects. They were assessing transects from Leamington Station to Radford Semele, and considered, with a gleam in their eyes, that my neglected, overgrown (? re-wilded) patch was an ideal site.

Stooping under a purple physocarpus and putting on his protective gloves, the prof. found and decanted a large female, said to be with eggs, into a dish before later returning it to its web.

14th October LS



A *Bombus pascuorum* cannot wait for this late flowering Cornish Bellflower, *Campanula alliariifolia* to fully open.
16th October SG



The tiny 2-4mm Sepsis fly is around most of the year but I notice them in my garden in October when there are fewer larger flies getting my attention. When seen in large numbers dancing and waving their wings in courtship these ant mimics earn their common name, Ensign flies. They will visit flowers for a carbohydrate meal but their favoured breeding habitat is mostly in cow and horse dung.
16th October SG

A few days of Autumn sunshine sent us off to Castleton in the Peak District for some lovely walking with fabulous views over the Ladybower Reservoir.



The reservoir was built in the Upper Derwent Valley between 1935 and 1943 and officially opened in 1945, but judging by the water levels it now looks in desperate need of some heavy rainfall.

16th October LW

KINGFISHER POOLS, ST NICHOLAS' PARK, WARWICK

The Kingfisher Pool complex was created in 1997 and incorporates Britain's only purpose-built Junior Angling Pool, developed by the Junior Angling Committee.

link: [About | Kingfisher Pool \(kingfisherpoolwarwick.co.uk\)](http://kingfisherpoolwarwick.co.uk)

This natural environment has developed into a wonderful wildlife area, safe for everyone including the disabled and children. The area is designated as a 'Local Nature Reserve' but the King Henry Pool has become completely overgrown and is now in urgent need of renovation. Funds are currently being sought for major reinstatement works to restore the pools to their former state, estimated to cost almost £50,000.

A number of local organisations have already agreed to provide funds for this project and the WNHS committee were approached and a grant application was considered. It was agreed that this important restoration of a local wildlife area in our home town should be supported. A grant of £5000 from our Mary Hunt Legacy Fund has been approved to help with the extensive work required.

The Society looks forward to the start of this exciting project and will keep members informed of progress.

*The flight season of the Ashy Mining bee, *Andrena cineraria* is April to May with some late sightings in June. I was very surprised and saddened to find a female slowly feeding at a *Rudbeckia* on October 8th. I suspect recent digging to repair heat damaged borders may have caused this very late emergence. I can only hope she digs herself in again and survives until next season.*

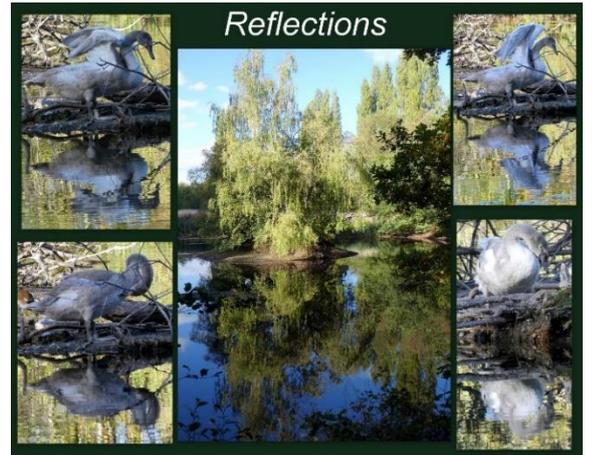
16th October SG



Stunning Acers in Compton Verney car park

Cygnets preening and basking in the sun at Brandon Marsh.

16th October SG



Early Autumn splendour in two of our local parks:

1. Leamington: Jephson Gardens on 2nd October -

Looking over the river from Mill Gardens bridge;

Mill Gardens' recently repaired bridge by the Boat Centre.



*2. Warwick: St Nicholas Park on 8th October
The little stream down to the river;*

The Kingfisher Pools - soon to be renovated.

19th October FW



Snippets to Linda please at: wesandlinda@btinternet.com

www.wnhs.info