



Upper Clun Community Wildlife Group



To: All members of the Group

April 2015

Dear Member,

2014 was another great year for the Group. Thank you!!!

Attendance at the Annual Public Meeting to Celebrate Wildlife in the Upper Clun on 20th November was again very good, considering the size of the local population – nearly 30 members turned out, including some new ones. The results of the Bird, Plant and Butterfly Surveys in 2014 were outlined, and plans for 2015 were discussed. John Macintosh, from the Shropshire Mammal Group, outlined how we can help by sending in Mammal records (see below). The Management Committee was re-elected.

The number of people on the mailing list is increasing as well – now over 220 people.

We've done a great job over 8 years, and we've got a solid body of achievement to show for it.

Annual Reports

A full Annual Report for 2014 was distributed at the Public Meeting, and everyone who came should have picked one up. Otherwise, if you want a copy of the full 2014 Report, please look on the website.

A short Summary Report is enclosed for all members.

Thank You

If you undertook a Bird, Plant or Butterfly Survey last year, or sent in some results or observations, thank you very much for your efforts. The Group couldn't function without you!!!!

Website

A website has been set up for all the Community Wildlife Groups in the Shropshire Hills, including the Upper Clun Group. The address is **www.ShropsCWGs.org.uk**

The website describes the work, activities and programme of each Group. We intend to use the website, and email, to communicate more with members in future. You can find contact details for the survey groups, and the Management Committee, on the website.

If you want to receive this information, please send your email address to Jacky (details below).

Mammals

Following the AGM, we are asking all members to send in mammal records. A training event will be organised. See the website for details. An explanatory note, and a recording form, are enclosed. If you want more information, please contact Rob Harris (01588 640234, email wilksharris@hotmail.com)

BBQ & Social

We've made early plans for the BBQ, on Saturday 11th July. Please put the date in your diary.

Promoting Conservation

The rules about cutting hedgerows on farmland have changed, so we have revised and re-published our information and advice leaflet on Hedgerows Leaflet. A copy is enclosed. It can also be found on the website, along with the three leaflets published previously (*Conserve Our Curlews Please*, *Managing Wetlands for Wildlife*, and *Managing Rush Pasture for Wildlife*).

**Secretary: Jacky Harrison Reilth Top, Bishops Moat SY9 5LL
(tel: 01588 630666 email jackyharrison51@hotmail.com).**

Our work with farmers, and with Natural England, to support good management to benefit our wildlife, is summarised in the enclosed report. Again, more details can be found on the website.

Lapwing and Curlew

The Bird Group is again concentrating on these birds this year. We hope members who are not directly involved in the surveys will tell us if you see either of them. This will be a big help.

We have found no breeding Lapwings since 2011. If any try and breed this year, we need to know as soon as possible so we can locate them and try to arrange some nest protection. If you see a Lapwing anywhere in the area, please telephone or email Michelle immediately (01588 640909, email michellefrater@outlook.com).

We think Curlews have declined by more than half since we started counting them in 2007, and found less in 2014 than in any previous year. We are again concentrating on areas where Curlews have been found, to build a better picture of how many there are, and the habitats they use. If you would like to help, please contact Michelle.

Plant Group

The Plant Group will again concentrate on surveying existing Wildlife Sites, and potential new ones. Surveys will be carried out at these sites, with Landowners' permission. If you are interested in helping please telephone Fiona (01588 680693, email Fiona@eadstudio4.co.uk).

Butterfly Surveys

If you want to help, please contact Rob Rowe (01588 630748, email Rob@robrowe.co.uk)

Events

We want to involve new members, including people who are interested and want to learn more. Everyone is welcome at all the events we organise, so tell your friends. Details will be emailed out, and posted on the website. Contact details are given, so if you want any further information please ask.

Note that, if any outdoor event is threatened by bad weather, notice of whether it is on or off will be put on the website, so please check it before setting off.

Barn Owls & Kestrels

Barn Owls are very scarce, and need our help. If you see one, please ring or email Michelle.

Please let Michelle know if you see a Kestrel, too – they use the same habitat as Barn Owls, so we also want to search the areas where they are seen.

Red Kites

We only found three nests last year. If you see evidence of breeding Kites (one in the same place several times, or two together, or one going into a wood), please tell Michelle.

Swifts

Swifts are amazing birds, but declining rapidly. We are working with the Shropshire Swift Group, to record nest sites and promote conservation. Details will be emailed out shortly. We would like someone new to help with this work and co-ordinate it. If you can help, please contact Peta Sams on 01584 876818, or email shropshireswifts@gmail.com

Clun & Bishop's Castle branch of Shropshire Wildlife Trust

We work closely with the branch, to ensure our activities complement each other, and we don't duplicate or compete. Details of future meetings can be found on our website.

Involving More People

Over 100 people have contributed to our bird and plant surveys since 2007 – a very high proportion of the population in the area, and an excellent result.

We want to involve as many people as possible, and all volunteers are welcome. If you know of other people who are interested, let Jacky know and she will add them to the mailing list.

Best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

Leo Smith

