

Common Botany Walk 6th August 2009

20 people joined the botany walk led by Dr Alan Showler which meet at the Village Hall at 7pm to learn more about the botanical life on the Common.

We started by looking for small butterflies in the tree canopy but it was a little late in the day and we did not see any. We next saw 2 different types of bind weed (as if 1 is not enough). By the time we reached Daisy Pond we had seen many examples of trees which had red berries. At Daisy Pond Alan told us how the rare Starfruit was found, what conditions were needed for it to survive, and what was need to be done to the pond to bring it back to life. We followed unfamiliar paths back seeing many examples of wildlife including fungi.

We ended up at Pickup's Pond (on the edge of the Common), see picture below, where we were told about the affect of introducing foreign species into the wild, (someone had put goldfish into this pond). Introduced specied like the goldfish eat newt spawn and dragonfly lava thus reducing the biodiversity of the pond and upsetting the balance of nature.



Overlooking Pickup's Pond - Photo by Peter Davis



Overlooking Daisy Pond - Picture by Philip Hussey

A list of the species identified and discussed

Trees & Shrubs

| | |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| Pendiculate Oak | <i>Quercus robur</i> |
| Sallow or Goat Willow | <i>Salix caprea</i> |
| Hawthorn | <i>Crataegus monogyna</i> |
| Wild Cherry | <i>Prunus avium</i> |
| Yew | <i>Taxus baccata</i> |
| Holly | <i>Ilex aquifolium</i> |
| Rowan | <i>Sorbus aucuparia</i> |
| Silver Birch | <i>Betula pendula</i> |
| Common Whitebeam | <i>Sorbus aria</i> |
| Beech | <i>Fagus sylvatica</i> |
| Ash | <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> |
| Hazel | <i>Corylus avellana</i> |
| Gorse | <i>Ulex europaeus</i> |

Wild Flowers

| | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Great or Large Bindweed | <i>Calystegia silvatica</i> |
| Hairy Bindweed | <i>Calystegia pulchra</i> |
| Creeping Thistle | <i>Cirsium arvense</i> |
| Bramble | <i>Rubus fruticosus agg.</i> |
| Honeysuckle | <i>Lonicera periclymenum</i> |
| Common Hemp-nettle | <i>Galeopsis tetrahit</i> |
| Rosebay Willowherb | <i>Chamerion angustifolium</i> |
| Water-pepper | <i>Persicaria hydropiper</i> |
| Hedge Woundwort | <i>Stachys sylvatica</i> |
| Hogweed | <i>Heracleum sphondylium</i> |
| Stinking Iris | <i>Iris foetidissima</i> |
| Rough Chervil | <i>Chaerophyllum temulum</i> |

Garden Escapes

| | |
|-------------|---------------------------------|
| Mock Orange | <i>Philadelphus coronaries</i> |
| Goldenrod | <i>Solidago virgaurea</i> |
| Montbretia | <i>Crocsmiax crocosmiiflora</i> |

Grasses and Rushes (see also ponds)

| | |
|---------------------|-----------------------------|
| Giant Fescue | <i>Festuca gigantia</i> |
| Annual Meadow | <i>Poa annua</i> |
| Creeping Soft-grass | <i>Holcus mollis</i> |
| Common Bent | <i>Agrostis stolonifera</i> |
| Cocksfoot | <i>Dactylis glomerata</i> |
| Slender Rush | <i>Juncus tenuis</i> |

Insects & amphibians

| | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
| Small White Butterfly | <i>Pieris rapae</i> |
| Location of Purple Hairstreak | <i>Thecla quercus</i> colony in an oak (no butterflies flying). |

Dragonfly – not identified.

Common Frog *Rana temporaria*

Liverwort – not identified.

Daisy pond

Yellow Iris *Iris pseudacorus*

Soft Rush *Juncus effuses*

Floating Sweet-grass *Glyceria fluitans*

Lesser Spearwort *Ranunculus lingua*

Pickup's pond

Horsetail – not identified (Field or Water Horsetail)

Water Forgetmenot *Myosotis scorpioides*

Celery-leaved Buttercup *Ranunculus sceleratus*

Brooklime *Veronica beccabunga*

Common Water Starwort *Callitriche stagnates*

Creeping Buttercup *Ranunculus repens*

Riged Hornwort *Ceratophyllum*

Canadian? Pondweed – not identified.