

# Events calendar

## 2017



The Plumpton and East Chiltington Wildlife Group grew out of the Plumpton Habitat Survey Group, set up in 2004 to undertake a survey of the different wildlife habitats in Plumpton parish. Surveying, monitoring and mapping wildlife and their habitats remains a core aim of the group. Other aims of the group are to 'advise and support local people to create havens for wildlife' and 'to conserve and manage local habitats for the benefit of wildlife'. Good examples are the wildflower areas at Plumpton Station and the wildflower meadow at The Plough.

Our final, and arguably the most important, aim is 'to enthuse and involve local people in wildlife conservation', benefitting not just our local wildlife but our own health and wellbeing. With this aim in mind, we have put together a programme of events and activities that we hope will entice existing and new members to join us.

### **April 28th – Nightingale Walk**

The scrubby thicket beside the railway line is perfect nightingale habitat, and the annual nightingale walk has become a popular event in the village calendar. Starting from the village shop soon after dusk, we set off down Riddens Lane and follow footpaths towards the railway. Huddled together in the darkness, we wait until one or more nightingales burst into song.

### **May 27th – Foraging for food**

Local and seasonal, wild plants have long provided food for country people. We are planning a relaxed wander, searching for and discussing common edible plants. Join us to reconnect with nature, taking home something to add to your salad or soup bowl.

### **May date tbc – Moth trapping**

In comparison with the plants, birds, bats, badgers and butterflies, we know relatively little about the moths to be found in and around the parish. A moth trap will be set up overnight in a Plumpton garden. We will gather the following morning to identify (and release!) the trapped moths.

### **June 17th – Survey of Plough meadow**

More than 97% of traditional British hay meadows and wild grasslands have been ploughed up for agriculture since the Second World War, and many once-common meadow plants are now threatened. The wildflower meadow at the Plough is a wonderful example of this disappearing habitat. Come and help us survey the plant species. No experience necessary.

### **June date tbc – Nightjars**

Last year's nightjar evening on Chailey Common didn't produce any of these nocturnal birds (although we did see glow worms). This year we are planning to go a bit further afield, to sites in Ashdown Forest where we are more likely to hear and see these mysterious birds.

### **July date tbc – Moth trapping 2**

A second moth trapping event, in another local garden. Will we find different species later in the year?

### **August/Sept date tbc – Bird ringing at Beachy Head**

We will visit the bird ringing station in Whitbread Hollow, to see birds being ringed and learn more about the functions of ringing and to see a range of different birds close up. We will continue on a walk around the cliffs to Cow Gap, looking for other birds and wildlife in general. Numbers limited.

### **Sept/Oct date tbc – Autumn foraging**

A second foraging event to look for fruits and nuts and other autumn hedge-row treats.

### **Nov date tbc – AGM**

The highlight of our AGM is a talk and slides about an aspect of local wildlife. Please let us know if there is a particular topic you would like to hear about.

### **Dec – Christmas drinks at local pub.**

For more information about these events, and our various ongoing projects, please visit our website <http://plumptonwildlifegroup.weebly.com/> or our Facebook Group <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1982455645313896/>