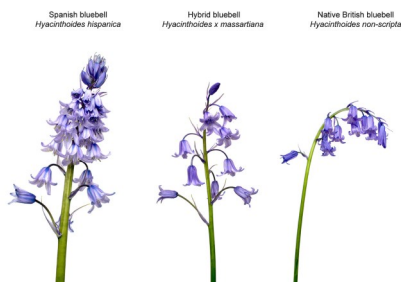


WILDLIFE AND TECHNOLOGY

The diversity and biology of wildlife has been studied and documented for well over 300 years. For example, Gilbert White's 'The Natural History of Selborne' was first published in 1798. At this time, the light microscope had been invented, but the camera, as we know it, was still to come. Nowadays we use a range of technology to identify and track wild species and one recent local example has been the use of bat detectors to follow bats in St Mary's Churchyard to determine whether and where they enter and leave the church. Bats hunt for insects at night, using a high frequency system called echolocation. Their calls are usually too high pitched for us to hear but they can be heard using a bat detector and individual species emit calls with specific characteristics. On a larger scale, the migration patterns of birds can be followed by attaching lightweight electronic transmitters to them and tracing the signals. Nowadays solar-powered transmitters are attached to individual birds and signals are beamed back via satellites allowing a bird's journey to be followed in detail. Finally, our native bluebells are often associated with ancient woodland and are protected by law. Another species, the Spanish bluebell, has been introduced to the British Isles and crosses with our native bluebell to produce fertile offspring which show a range of variation between the two parent species. Thus, even some bluebells which look like natives may be hybrids. Over time, the integrity of our native bluebells could be lost as hybridisation occurs more widely and Spanish bluebells might eventually 'out-compete' our natives. Recently there has been interest in using new molecular (DNA bar-coding) techniques to assess the extent of hybridisation, because it is so difficult to do this based solely on the physical appearance of the flowers.

Rosemary Collier





TYSOE Wildlife Activity Week 2ND - 6TH AUGUST



Learn about wildlife in and around Tysoe.

Each morning session (9.30 - 12.30) will focus on a different theme:

- Monday - Flowers
- Tuesday - Bees
- Wednesday - Butterflies & Moths
- Thursday - Hedgehogs and mini-beasts
- Friday - Birds and Trees

ACTIVITIES: Nature study, science, art and craft, stories and games all about wildflowers and wildlife and how to care for it.

WHO IS IT FOR? 5-11 year old children who live in the Tysoe District.

HOW LONG: 3 hour long sessions with a break. (Wrap around care at Tysoe Children's Group, book direct with TCG call 01295 680624.)

WHERE: Based at St Mary's Church, Tysoe.

FRIDAY FINALE: A Nature Treasure Hunt followed by a picnic (from 12.30-1pm.) The children's work will be displayed for parents and carers to see what the week has involved.

TO BOOK - email tysoewildlife@gmail.com or contact Nicki Campbell on 01295 680772. Bookings on a first come first serve basis. Spaces are limited to 30. You will be required to fill in a consent form.

THE TEAM - led by Rosemary Collier, Professor University of Warwick supported by experienced teachers and helpers all DBS Checked. Covid protocols will be followed.

The workshop is being sponsored by St Mary's Church and is free of charge. Any voluntary donations will go to support wildlife charities.

MAKING SPACE FOR NATURE

The verges and St Mary's Churchyard have now been mown following 'No Mow May' and attention is focused on a small number of 'wildlife' areas – School Lane, Baldwin's Lane, close to Herbert's Farm and in Badger's Lane, together with the slightly wider unmown margins on the north side of the playing field. Some of the areas have been sown with plenty of wildflower seed, so we are waiting to see what appears. The Yellow Rattle in the wildflower areas in St Mary's Churchyard has really taken off and some has also established in School Lane. There have been some great 'sightings' in the last few weeks including a large Grass Snake and several species of Hawk Moth in Lower Tysoe, at least one more species of bat in the churchyard (Soprano Pipistrelle) and a Christmas Butterfly near Back Lane, believed to have escaped from Stratford Butterfly Farm!

Rosemary Collier



TWAM - TOOLS WITH A MISSION

We are restarting after a difficult year, so if you would like to support our Christian charity TWAM we collect all types of tools, sewing machines, computers etc. and refurbish them and put them into "Trade Kits" e.g. Taylor, Carpenter, Car Mechanic and many more. We ship them out mainly to Africa and, with our partners, run six-month training courses for deserving individuals. On completion they receive their trade kit and return to their village/town and start their self-employed business.



More details at www.twam.uk.
If you have unwanted tools, please contact me on 07748 324934.

Jim Saxton

TWAM tool collector in Oxhill

TECHNOLOGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Tyndall originated the idea of climate change being related to CO₂ levels in 1861. It had to wait until the advent of computers to enable Plass (funded by the US Navy) and others to model the CO₂ theory of climate change in the 1950s, roughly about the same time as it took for a new-fangled idea of mains water to arrive in Tysoe!

So, can we wait 100 years before really tackling our consumption of greenhouses gasses? Ideas for restoring the equilibrium of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere may have been identified, but it's probably better not to wait. Without resorting to outright bans, remediating our consumption takes time. The last 18 months has demonstrated we have more time than we thought. So, in the Monty Don tradition, here are some things you can do right now to help.

Crisp packet recycling: In the UK we consume 6bn crisp packets a year (The Guardian, 2018). That's more than the rest of Europe put together. The interior is typically a 'metallised plastic film'. You can recycle these. You can take them to the Body Shop in Stratford or Ettington School – there is a bin just inside the school gate. If you have a bit more time cut them open, wash off the grease and dry them and take them to the bin in Brailes (next door to the newly built Nook Cottage) – more details at the www.crisppacketproject.com.

Water usage: The water industry is one of our biggest energy users. Its profligate to use our high-quality tap water to spray on lawns or flush effluent down the toilet. A significant proportion of our rainwater ends up at the sewage treatment works, thanks to our legacy water drainage network. So why not install a water butt on each of your down-pipes? Whilst waiting for the water to run hot, collect it in a jug and use it for watering as well. Oh, and mellow is yellow – don't flush (even the small button) the loo every time you have a wee!

Energy consumption: Just common sense really: turn off all those devices on standby and if you make a hot drink don't boil more water than you need.

So, don't wait for the technological change to arrive and save us from ravages of climate change, use some of the time you have saved by not having to fill your pail at the village wells!

Mike Sanderson