

**MAY 2021**  
**No: 815**

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**An Orange-Tip Butterfly, an appropriate image for 'NO MOW MAY'.**  
Photo credit: pixabay.com

**In this 'Law and Order' Issue we take a look at:**

- **Our morbid fascination with crime**
- **Lift the thatch on the 'Old Police House'**
- **Catch-up with our Police and Crime Commissioner**

**Plus we:**

- **Learn WWT plans to double its nature reserves by 2030**
- **Read more entertaining notices from Alan Birkbeck**
- **Hear the tale of Michael Gibbs' ever faithful runabout!**
- **.... AND LOTS MORE!**

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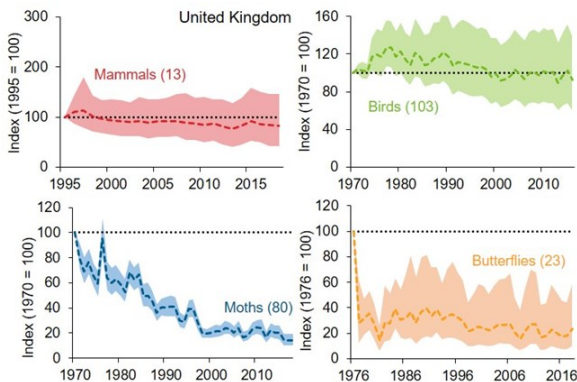
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**KEY TO GRAPHS** The graphs opposite show the change in the relative abundance of four groups of animals in the UK from the dates when reliable counts began. The graphs show the unsmoothed trend (dashed line) together with the 95% confidence interval (shaded area) for all four groups. The figures in brackets show the number of species in each measure.

## DELIVERING A WILDER WARWICKSHIRE - “30 BY 30”

David Attenborough, amongst others, has made us aware of the great challenges the natural world faces, many of them linked to the huge increase in the human population over the last 50 or more years. One effect has been the decline in the abundance of many species, shown for four groups of animals in the UK in the graphs below. Many of us have personal experience of such changes; hedgehogs would be one example, wild orchids another, and the local nightingales that have now disappeared. Many individuals and groups are working hard to reverse these declines but it is sometimes hard to know not only what, but how much, we need to do. The Wildlife Trusts are calling for at least 30% of our land and sea to be connected and protected for nature’s recovery by 2030 (30 by 30), making more space for nature to become abundant once again. To put it in a local context, the Warwickshire Wildlife Trust estimates that 16% of the district of Stratford upon Avon already supports nature - so we need to double that area!



The ‘beauty’ of this challenge is that it can be addressed on any scale; so for example, we could each ensure that 30% of our garden is suitable for wild-life, and apply this approach to some of the ‘shared’

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areas in the parish, as we are starting to do with the churchyard and School Lane. The Warwickshire Wildlife Trust is making its own plans, including raising funds to double the area that it manages, but it can’t achieve the 30 by 30 target on its own and there is plenty of scope for us all to contribute.

Rosemary Collier



# MadMolly

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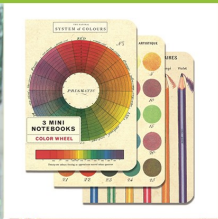
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## MAKING SPACE FOR NATURE

A number of people have been busy in the last few weeks. Wildflower areas have been marked and prepared in Baldwin's Lane, Saddledon Street (strip behind the daffodils), the path between Saddledon Street and Back Lane, School Lane and Badger's Lane. Most of these have been sown with mixtures of wildflower seeds and will not be mown until late summer. We are also planning to leave unmown strips beneath the two long hedgerows in the playing fields, to provide more room for wildflowers and insects. Many of our verges, with the exception of those in the centre of the village, will be taking part in 'No Mow May'. It will be interesting to see how many flowers appear, providing sources of pollen and nectar for insects, which in turn provide food for birds.



Yellow Rattle

The Yellow Rattle in the wildflower areas in St Mary's Churchyard is growing well and more wildflower seeds have been sown in these areas and in some of the

'wild' areas around the trees. There are some patches of nettles for the caterpillars of Peacock and Small Tortoiseshell butterflies and most of the plants in the new wildlife hedge are now in leaf. Depending on how COVID guidance develops, we may be able to organise a couple of 'walks' to visit some of the wildflower areas in the parish when they are in full bloom.



Small Tortoiseshell



Peacock

Rosemary Collier

**'BRING AND BUY' PLANT SALE** organised by the Oxhill Garden Club, will take place outside at the Oxhill Village Hall on Saturday 22nd May starting at 10.30 am. Proceeds will go towards the Oxhill Village Hall maintenance and rebuild fund. For further information please contact Peter Rivers-Fletcher on 01295 680396 or 07730 800729.