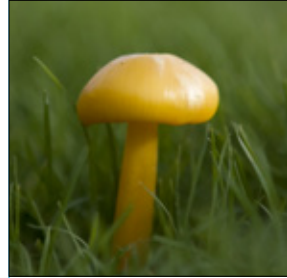


A different kind of beauty

There is a nip in the air and you may be finding, like the autumn sun, you struggle to rise in the morning. However, if you do you will be rewarded with the sight of jewels glistening in the sunshine – dew drops on spiders’ webs catching the early rays. This is the time of year many of our spiders become most conspicuous and the classic circular webs of orb web spiders look almost perfect glinting in the damp vegetation. Most orb weavers spin a new web each night after eating the remnants of the old web. Is it just coincidence they appear more numerous as we approach Halloween?



Meanwhile there are bodies emerging from the ground.



Fungi. Throughout the rest of the year, the main part of fungi, known as the mycelium, remains hidden, living underground. It is vital to the health of woodland recycling nutrients needed for plants to survive. Now however, the fungi reveals itself as the fruiting body we recognise, ripening and releasing their microscopic seeds, known as spores, into the air to disperse and start a new generation. Fungi come in all shapes, sizes and even colours but beware, many are poisonous and best left admired but untouched.

The leaves are turning and acorns litter the ground beneath the oaks. With the majority of our summer visitors having left for warmer climes, our woods and fields have fallen hauntingly silent.

Our resident birds, feed up on nuts, seeds and fruit, some stashing secret larders in preparation for leaner times ahead and many will return to garden feeders to take advantage of our goodwill. October is a good time to be putting up new nest boxes and cleaning out old ones, as some birds will use them to roost in during the long cold winter nights.

As darkness falls, fingers of mist creep out of the shadows and the hoot of an owl cuts eerily through the still night. This is likely to be a male tawny owl setting up territory in preparation for the breeding season later in winter. The classic ‘tu-whit, to-whoo’ is actually two owls responding to each other. The sharp and more accurately, ‘kee-wick’, is typically the female, while the familiar long wavering ‘hooo-hoo-hooo’ hoot belongs to the male.



This month of transition may feel strange, spooky even, but it also gives the countryside an ethereal beauty well worth getting up for and spectacular sunsets worth lingering in the twilight for.

RSPB Pagham Harbour & Medmerry October

Saturday 06 October, Bird Watching for Beginners – Waders & Wildfowl of Pagham Harbour. Have you ever wondered what that bird is with the long green legs and up-turned bill? How do you distinguish a dunlin from a knot? Well join us in a series of 3 monthly classes to find out...

Focusing on identification of our waders and wildfowl this course also covers ecology of the harbour, tips and tricks for watching wetland birds, migration, key identification features and separating confusing species! Each starts with short theory in the classroom, followed by a practical session on our wonderful reserve.

Full course dates are: 06 October
03 November
01 December

10am (duration 3 hours) Booking essential £10 per person (£8 RSPB members) per class / £30 per person (£24 RSPB members) whole course

Sunday 07 October, Someone to Guide You.

Unsure of what that bird is? Our friendly guides will be at our brand new **Ferry Pool Hide, Pagham Harbour** to help you spot and identify the wildlife that you see.

10am – 2pm Drop-in. Free

Sunday 07 October, Wildlife Photography Workshop. This all-day practical workshop gives an introduction to basic techniques for wildlife photography, combining theory with opportunities to practice what you learn on our beautiful reserve.

8.30am (duration 8 hours)

Booking essential £18 per person / £14 members

Sunday 21 October, Discover Pagham Harbour (west) Guided Walk. Our own ‘West Side’ story set to an autumn backdrop featuring a cast of autumnal migrants. Join us for this gentle 4 mile walk combining wildlife with the Harbours historic past.

10am (duration 3½ hours)

Booking essential, £7 per person / £4 members

Saturday 27 October, Artists Wildlife Painting Workshop. This all-day workshop gives an introduction to basic techniques of watercolour painting combining a little theory with a lot of practical application and advice. Although wildlife based, the principles can be applied in a wider context. The session is aimed at beginners and those returning to an old hobby after work. Good quality paints, paper and brushes will be supplied, just bring your enthusiasm.

9.30am (duration 7 hours)

Booking essential, £20 per person / £16 members

Sunday 28 October, Someone to Guide You. Unsure of what that bird is? Our friendly guides will be at our brand new **Church Norton Hide, Pagham Harbour, PO20 9DT**, to help you spot and identify the wildlife that you see. **10am – 2pm Drop-in. Free**

Half-term activities

Tuesday 23 October, **Birds & Crafts!** With autumn upon us many birds are returning to garden feeders, join us in discovering which birds and learning more about them, before making your own bird feeder to take home.

10.30am (duration 2 hours)

Booking essential £3 per child / £2 members

Thursday 25 October, **Mini-beasts & Crafts!** Calling all bug detectives – join us hunting and learning about the bugs that live in our reserve, before creating a beastly Halloween lantern to take home.

10.30am (duration 2 hours)

Booking essential £3 per child / £2 members

November

Sunday 18 November, Discover Medmerry (East) Guided Walk. Starting from Pagham Harbour Visitor Centre walking to the Ham Viewpoint before returning via Ferry Hide. This 5 mile walk which

Ivy: the kebab shop of plants

by Michael Blencowe of the Sussex Wildlife Trust

In the Autumn many parishes celebrate the year's yield with Harvest Festivals, a tradition which dates back to pagan times. But for our insects, nourishment is now in short supply. The beautiful flowers which have filled our countryside and gardens with colour and which have provided our insects with nectar will have shut up shop for another year. But there is one plant that will just be revealing its flowers in October; opening for business long after the others have closed their doors. Your nearest Ivy will now be coming into bloom; look for its flowers - bobbly explosions of pale green.

Red Admiral on Ivy c Bob Foreman

Sussex Wildlife Trust



Ivy in flower c Roger Wilmshurst

Sussex Wildlife Trust

In the spring it is a nesting site for our robins and wrens. Ivy covers a blank brick wall with a piece of living graffiti. It's a nature reserve that has spread itself across our towns and villages.

But despite all the life it supports, Ivy has a reputation as a killer and its roots are accused of sucking the life from the trees it surrounds. This isn't true; Ivy manufactures its own nourishment just like any other honest plant. And we can't forget the important service that Ivy provides for us humans. For centuries Ivy has protected us from house goblins. Bringing Ivy into your home as a decoration at Christmas (the time when goblins are at their most pesky apparently) will ensure that your festive season passes without a burnt turkey or a blown fairy light.

Hornet c Neil Fletcher

Sussex Wildlife Trust



combines birds and wildlife with Medmerry's history and its creation into the reserve you see today.

10am (duration 4 hours), meet at Pagham Harbour Visitor Centre PO20 7NE at 9.45am.

Booking essential, £7 per person / £4 members

Sunday 25 November, Someone to Guide You.

Unsure of what that bird is? Our friendly guides will be at our brand new **Ferry Pool Hide, Pagham Harbour** to help you spot and identify the wildlife that you see.

10am – 2pm Drop-in. Free

Check out our website www.rspb.org/paghamharbour for full events program.

RSPB Pagham Harbour & Medmerry Visitor Centre, Selsey Road, Sidlesham PO20 7NE

Email: pagham.harbour@rspb.org.uk

Tel: 01243 641508

www.rspb.org.uk/paghamharbour

SUSSEX WILDLIFE TRUST October 2018

CHICHESTER

Tuesday 30 October

Illustrated Talk by Mike Perry on “Moths” to the Sussex Wildlife Trust, Friends Meeting House, Priory Road, Chichester, PO19 1NX at 7.30 pm

Entrance Members £3-00/Visitors £4-00 inc refreshments
01243 262833

Chichester Conservancy Volunteers October 2018

DUNCTON

Sunday 21 October

Conservation – Heathland Management with Claire Wilton of the Chichester Conservation Volunteers on Lavington Common from 10.00 am 01243 788833 or 07952 054239

Sussex Wildlife Trust is an independent charity caring for wildlife and habitats throughout Sussex. Founded in 1961, we have worked with local people for over half a century to make Sussex richer in wildlife.

We rely on the support of our members to help protect our rich natural heritage. Please consider supporting our work. As a member you will be invited to join Michael Blencowe on our regular wildlife walks and also enjoy free events, discounts on wildlife courses, Wildlife magazine and our Sussex guide book, Discovering Wildlife. It's easy to join online at www.sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk/join or over the phone on 01273 497532.

www.sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk

RSPB Events for October 2018

ARUNDEL

Tuesday 9 October

All Day Bird Walk around Swanbourne Lake, Mill Stream and the river banks with Kerry Jackson of the RSPB Chichester Local Group. Meet in Mill Road, opposite lake at 9.30 am, Map Ref: TQ019079 01243 262833

CHICHESTER

Thursday 25 October

Illustrated Talk by Katrina van Grouw on “A Very Fine Swan Indeed – Science of the Unfeathered Bird” to the RSPB at The Pallant Suite, Masonic Hall, South Pallant, Chichester, PO19 1SY at 7.30 pm.

Entrance members £2-50/visitors £5 01243 262833
wheelchair access

CHIDHAM

Saturday 27 October

All Day Bird Walk around Chidham and Cobnor Point with Carole Griffiths of the RSPB Chichester Local Group. Meet in sunken lane car park at 9.30 am, Map Ref: SU793034 01243 262833

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