



August Newsletter



NEWS

Most of the work this month has been the cutting and clearing of the footpaths, repairs to the willow fence in the lower dene and clearing away some tree brash. We have given up the idea of digging out brambles as the ground is still too hard to get a fork in.

The Teddy Bear's Picnic event for families with young children proved a success, now in its third year. The weather was kind on the day. They came with their picnics to be entertained with live music by the Bay Uke group and a story teller plus tombola, craft activities and a cake stall.

The RHS "It's Your Neighbourhood" assessor has visited the site this month and from her comments about the site we think that we have retained our award, even if there was not that much in bloom at the time. We will not know the results until the award ceremony in September

WILD FLOWERS

The last of the wild flowers to bloom was Wild Carrot or Queen's Anne's Lace. This appeared one week flowered, set seed and was ready for cutting a week later, it is usually around for about 4 weeks. One prevalent tale attributes the flower's name to Queen Anne, who was renowned for her passion for lace making. As the story goes, during a moment of lace making, she accidentally pricked her finger, allowing a droplet of blood to grace the centre of her lace flower. This single drop, resembling the dark reddish-purple floret found within Queen Anne's Lace blooms, is said to have inspired the flower's name.



Photos of this
Years
Wild Carrot

Taken on the
Dene Top in the
Middle of the
Month



NEW SPECIES

Two new species were recorded this month, photos and details are on the next page, This now brings the number of species recorded in the dene to 1144

WORK SCHEDULE

September: Will be a month of grass cutting and lifting the cuttings, general maintenance, clearing along all the footpaths, litter picking and loading skips with the grass cuttings

PLANNED EVENTS The next Committee Meeting will be at the Whitley Bay Golf Club at 7:00pm on Tuesday 22nd September.



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Mint Moth *Pyrausta aurata*

This is a small moth also known by the common name small purple and gold. These moths inhabit chalk and limestone grassland, woodland, marshland and gardens, and have a wingspan of 18–20 millimetres. This species can be found in most of Europe and it is also widespread in North Africa and North Asia. As the name suggests, the mint moth often uses mint as a food plant, though it can also be found on other species plants.



Thick-Legged Hoverfly *Syrirta pipiens*

Syrirta pipiens, sometimes called the thick-legged hoverfly, is one of the most common species in the insect family Syrphidae. The thick-legged hoverfly is quite small having a wing length ranging between 4.25–7 mm and a body length between 6.5–9 mm. They are fast and nimble fliers, and their larvae are found in wet, rotting organic matter such as garden compost and manure.



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This species is an important part of its native ecosystem as adult *Syrirta pipiens* flies are critical pollinators for a variety of flowering plants