



LOCAL NATURE RESERVE

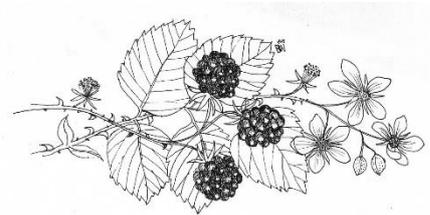
NEWSletter

Issue No 201

September 2022

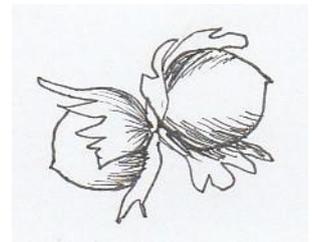
Off We Go Again...

The 25th of September was a dry and sunny day for the most part. It was warm in the sun but on entering Foal Hurst Wood we noticed a considerable drop in temperature. Fortunately this was countered by work. Ten volunteers set to clearing brambles and fallen trees and much was accomplished that morning. The biggest problem is the dense bramble which still persists even after the efforts of Ray and me.



After tea break we continued clearing the bramble but people drifted off home for a well earned Sunday lunch from about twelve. The last of us finished at one p.m.

On the 17th August, Steve W. and I pulled up half of the reed mace in the small pond in Orchard Meadow. This has cleared most of the dead material on one side of the pond which will permit new plants to grow, hopefully with new and different varieties. There is a nice patch of evening primrose by the pond which was flowering in spite of the drought. We also cleared some of the trees that were encroaching on the electric cables at the corner of the same meadow. Finally, on that day I found a single cinnabar moth caterpillar on a small ragwort plant. It was a well developed example not far short of pupating. I just hope it has enough food to complete the process. It makes me feel very bad that I cut down all the rest of the plants a few weeks ago.



On August 24th Ray and I started to prepare for the coppicing we will be doing this winter. I continued the work on the 31st and also planted several hazel nuts around the wetland in the hope these will germinate in the spring.

I saw a baby frog from this year's spawn and a juvenile buzzard flying through the wood. The noise it makes is very similar to the tawny owl chicks but they are much bigger birds. I also found the nest of two blackbirds and one wren in the area we are coppicing.

FHW NEWS letter

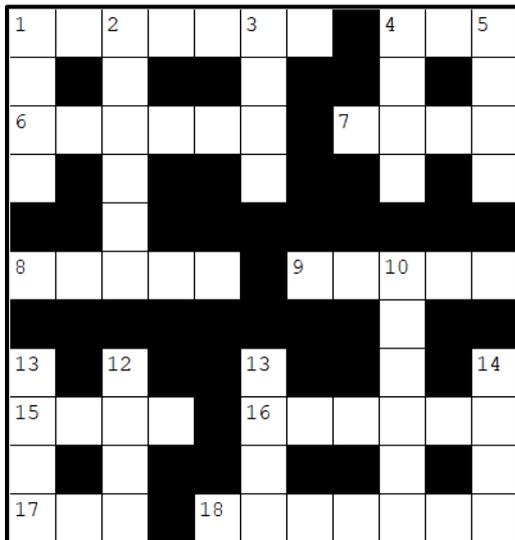
On the 7 Sept there was a red bodied Common Skimmer Dragonfly buzzing about the Flower Meadow. That day I spent time strimming brambles and came across a fine example of one of the coral fungi. There are several varieties ranging in colour from cream through yellow to brown, there is also a purple version (violet coral) that grows in meadows. All the corals have a delicate, branched, upright form except coral tooth which has a branched hanging form like icicles. The one I found is Upright Coral (*Romaria stricta*) and grows about 8cm across and 10cm high with tightly bunched bundles of vertical stems. It starts off as a bright yellow growth but blanches with age. When I found it, it was almost white. If bruised the flesh turned bright red. Over the next few weeks it progressed along the fallen branch and I am happy to say there were still some good looking examples on our work day so the volunteers could appreciate it. Due to the rain on the 14th Sept I didn't go to the wood although it soon cleared up. I did go on the 15th to strim more brambles and noticed the Wetland had water in it again after so many months of dry weather. I was also unable to work on the 21st but we have still managed to make a good start.



Next volunteers' day is Sunday the 30th October when we will be doing more of the same. Hopefully I will have cleared more brambles by then. 09.30 start in the Badsell Road car park, see you then.

Peter Prince

FHW Crossword No 166



Clues Across

1. Takes some clearing, (7). 4. Sprite, (3). 6. Birch, (6).
7. Preposition, (4). 8,9. Growing on fallen branches, (5,5).
15. Swirl, whirlpool, (4). 16. Single cell animal, (6).
17. Female deer, (3). 18. Definitely changing, (7).

Clues Down

- 1,5. Juvenile amphibian, (4,4). 2. Deer horn, (6).
3,13. Autumn, (4,4). 4. Sea eagle, (4). 5. See 1.
10. Catmint, (6) 11,14. Pond plant, (4,4). 12. Wood working tool, (4). 13. See 3. 14. See 11.

Solutions to FHW Crossword No 165

Across 3. Comma. 6. Weasel. 8. Acres. 9. Sower. 10. To
12. Larch. 13. Poles. 14. Be. 17. Rowan. 18. Grass. 21. Chirps 22. Snake
Down 1. Owls. 2. Ragwort. 4. Mar. 5. Also. 7. Earth. 8. AM.
11. Flowers. 13. Perch. 15. Ages. 16. Is. 18. Nest. 20. AKA.

Any News?

Items for the next Issue by 6th November please, to:

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