



Newsletter

Rivelin Valley Conservation Group

Summer 2017 no 103

Through The Chair

Welcome to the RVCG summer newsletter. The warm weather and intermittent rain has helped me produce some of the best veg I have grown for some years. There is quite a lot of pest damage from caterpillars but as butterflies seem to be having a bad time of late, I'm quite reluctant to destroy them. Instead I dedicate one or two cabbages as donor plants and transfer all the caterpillars I find onto those. I suppose every little helps.

We held our 26th AGM in April at which we had possibly our biggest attendance. The pie and peas from S10 butchers really seemed to do the trick and thank you to everyone who contributed to the evening. I hope some of you have managed to visit the Weston Park Museum to see the display of paintings from the Rivelin Valley Artists Colony during the 1920's thank you to Chris Baines whose grandfather was one of the artists. These will be on display until 5th Nov.

We had a very successful litter pick back in April and thank you to all those who attended. Roger Kite also led an evening walk through Blackbrook wood on a beautiful evening during Sheffield Environment weeks.

As the decision of the proposed flood retention dam at Roscoe hangs in the balance, I do hope that we don't experience any more damaging floods of previous years which could undermine our campaign. We continue to gather evidence of the possible impact on wildlife and human activity to help prevent this proposal from going ahead.

Graham Appleby
RVCG Chairman

Contacts

Chairman	Graham Appleby	01142660203
Task Force	Keith Kendall	01142307144
Newsletter	M Sanderson	01142306790
Treasurer	David Lyon	01142302660
Group Recorder	Joan Buckland	01142305829
Membership	C & G Roe	01142665473
Speaker Organiser	Irene Harrison	01142335780

Mail to : rvcg@supanet.com

Web: www.rivelinvalley.org.uk

Donations

Many thanks for the following donations. Barrand, Green, McDermott, Morton, Fish, Neal, Heathcote, Walshaw, Daines, Sharkey, Woodhead, Upchurch, Allen, Hill, Sharpe, Culmer, Beal, Pearson, Albans, Atter, Kershaw, Nutton, Robertson, Best, Hall, Richards, Wright, Ward, Elliot, Andrew, Woollen, Eyre. This amounted to over £343 and is very much appreciated.

If your name is not here it is because your donation arrived after this newsletter went for printing.

Obituary

We are always sorry to hear of the death of an RVCG member.

Brian Dean has been a long standing and very generous member of RVCG.

I used to enjoy listening to his reminiscences of walking through Rivelin when he was younger. Even when he grew too infirm to walk the Rivelin he told me how much he enjoyed reading our newsletter and remembering old times in the valley.

We send our condolences to his family who will miss him very much.

M Sanderson

Task Group

Owing to the bad weather, the last Task Day was cancelled.

If you are interested in joining this group please get in touch with Keith Kendall. See contact list.

What would we do without the Task Group? Who else would look after the valley, keep footpaths safe by stopping water running over them, resurfacing and removing obnoxious weeds and who liaise with the council who can't afford to do this work. These are just a few of the jobs these unsung heroes and heroines do.

Give them a cheer and ovation now. They want to hear you so shout loud!

M Sanderson

Feed the Birds

Those of us who were children in WW2 might remember being told to eat up our crusts. "Waste not, want not." was the mantra from government minister, Lord Wooten. Some of you might remember the pig swill bins for potato peelings etc. There was one opposite my house when I lived on Ringstead Crescent.

Now grown up, I feed my crusts to the birds that land on the garage roof.

One warm sunny day recently, I was a bit slow in throwing out the chopped up crusts. The kitchen door was open and I became aware of a male blackbird on my doorstep. He waddled into the kitchen and gazed at me quizzically with his head on one side. Bird feeding was resumed.

Sparrows seem to be in good supply. I have a group who like to feed in the back garden and another group that prefers the front. A sparrow's nest is in my gutter, spotted by my neighbour. I watched as a mother sparrow searched for crumbs to feed her chick. While mother was looking for crumbs, the chick was busy finding its own food but was there open mouthed when mum returned with food.

He's grown up mum, let him feed himself.

M Sanderson

RVCG AGM

Our Annual General Meeting in April was well attended.

We had plenty of food to cater for meat eaters and vegetarians. The kitchen was busy and we thank all the helpers who dealt with the washing up and returning Stephen Hill Church to its previous pristine state. It was good to see so many members there and your committee was voted to carry on with their work and serve for another year. If you have never attended before, please come next year.

M Sanderson

Blast From the Past

In February 1992, the group visited the Quaker burial ground "Bowcroft" in Stannington. The graves date from around 1708. At that time Quakers, being nonconformists were regarded as heretics as they did not attend the Church of England.

They were not allowed to have their dead buried in the local Church of England graveyard that at this time was in the village of Bradfield.

They were persecuted in many ways. The Sheffield Archives have a Quaker record book that gives accounts of goods taken from their homes. These included cash, pewter, fire shovels and corn.

This graveyard is well worth visiting, not just for the history but also for the wonderful views across the valley.

M Sanderson

In 2012, DEFRA Minister, Richard Benyon planned to capture buzzards and destroy their nests. He wanted to protect the rearing of pheasants for the shooting fraternity. It would have cost £375,000 of our money.

There was a public outcry and so failed but birds of prey are still illegally killed by some gamekeepers who want to

protect this "sport". Would any government minister dare to do this now?

Help Wanted

Do you have anything to say in this newsletter? We always like to hear your stories. Many of you have had a long connection with Rivelin and we have had many interesting tales of paddling, hiking, climbing trees, nature/bird watching or just enjoying yourself. Please contact M Sanderson – see contacts list.

Please encourage someone else to join RVCG. We have many members who just like to hear about the valley. You don't have to do any physical work but just like to keep interested.

A Rivelin Story

A little boy and a little girl went on a fishing expedition down Rivelin Valley with their two Dads. The Dads thought it would be a good education for the children to see Rivelin wild life - of the right kind. The two Dads each carried a fishing net and a jam jar with a string around the top to carry it.

The little girl was quite excited and asked her Dad if she could carry a jam jar. "No, you might drop it and it will break" said the Dad. "Well can I carry the fishing net" she said. "No" said Dad, "you might poke out someone's eye" was the reply.

When the two Dads found a suitable place on the river, the Dads started swishing the nets around in the water looking for fish.

The children got bored watching their Dads and said "Can we do it?"

"No" they said, "You might fall in".

The kids got fed up of seeing their fathers having all the fun and wandered off out of sight to the nearby dam. The little boy taught the little girl how to skim pebbles across the water but soon there came panicky calling of their names. The Dads wondered where their children had gone. Could they have

fallen into the dam or been abducted? When the Dads found them there was much relief and the children inspected the sticklebacks, minnows and other creepy crawlies in the jam jars, before they were put back in the river. On the way home, the Dads admitted that they had got it wrong and were just recreating their own childhood by the river.

My Dad was always safety conscious and was responsible for getting rid of asbestos from his works long before it was banned. His own father had drowned in Blackpool and so he was always wary of water.

M Sanderson

Urban Foxes

Foxes are becoming more common. They know which side their bread is buttered and love to rummage around near people's bins and be ready to investigate discarded fish and chip papers or bird food. Yet there are less in the countryside, believed to be because there are fewer rabbits.

The ones I see on my road look very healthy. One walks down the road looking up every drive, seeking rich pickings. It is believed that Bournemouth has the highest population. Reading and Brighton Universities estimate that there is one fox for every 300 people. I always know when a fox has been in my garden as I find a present of fox poo in just ready for me to tread on.

Please report you sightings to RVCG.

M Sanderson

Butterflies

Unlike foxes, butterflies seem to be in decline.

The UK Butterfly Monitoring Scheme (UKBMS) says that that 2016 was the fourth worst year on record for them. Wall grayling, hairstreak, white admirals and grizzled skippers had their worst year in 2016.

So far this year I have seen very few but I hope the cabbage white will keep away. It decimates the brassica family and it is very tedious to net all your veg. The small white is adept at curling up its wings and creeping through the net.

The good news is that the large blue is up 38% and the red admiral up 86%.

M Sanderson

Hedge Munching Caterpillars

If you have a box hedge, beware. It is marching north after emigrating from France and has been seen in London. Maybe it will not like draughty Sheffield. It loves the leaves of box and is hairy, black and green.

Thank you to Valleyside Garden Centre for your continued support of the RVCG.

RVCG AGM 2017

Chairman's Report 2017

This is my 7th term as chairman since taking over from Roger Kite in 2010 and is the 26th anniversary of the Rivelin Valley Conservation Group. I remain committed to the task of leading a voluntary group with over 500 members and an active and effective committee. We have over 70 active members who keep the RVCG ticking like clockwork including a group of over 30 task team volunteers who make such a huge difference to the Rivelin Valley. I would like to thank everyone who has contributed to the RVCG this year and a thank you to the partners and families of those volunteers. The group maintains a strong bond with the Sheffield City Council and Yorkshire Water and is the envy of many other voluntary organisations. We have now sold around 1250 'Walking in the Rivelin' books by Keith Kendall and enhanced to a very professional standard by Sue Shaw and her artistic designer friend Holly.

This year we have installed a recycled plastic post at each mill that gives the name of the mill and using mobile technology, the QR code will allow smart phone users to discover the history of the site.

Rivelin was threatened with the loss of many mature trees alongside Rivelin Valley Park and adjacent the fire station. This has been put on hold following some strong protest about tree felling in general and we are still monitoring the situation although nothing is likely to happen until the Autumn. The loss of so many Lime Trees just to obtain a nice neat curb edge seems unacceptable to us and we continue to press for alternative solutions and for a long term plan to manage this unusual and stately Lime Tree avenue.

Recent highly damaging floods have driven the Sheffield City Council to trial a City Flood Prevention Scheme for completion by 2021. Initial proposals are to keep waterways clear, reduce pinch points, utilise the existing natural flood plains and to install a selection of dams across some of our valleys. The initial proposal at Wolf

Dam has since been withdrawn but the largest proposed structure at Roscoe Mill, just up from the childrens playground in Rivelin park, is still on the cards. Financial approval is being sought by the Council from the Government after which a detailed investigation will take place to determine the construction and location details. Whilst we support the city wide flood prevention strategy, we feel that this gigantic structure so close to a tremendously popular location is ringing alarm bells and we will try to seek a more acceptable alternative

Graham Appleby
RVCG Chairman

The 2016/17 committee was as follows:

Graham Appleby: Chairman and newsletter production.

I have been with the group since 1997 and chairman since 2010 and I help co-ordinate the group activities. I liaise with other groups and organisations and help promote the group at events. I am a regular task team member and occasionally cover as task team leader. I provide the final editing of the newsletter and print it ready for distribution.

Keith Kendall: Vice chairman, Task Team leader and group administrator.

Keith is a major contributor to the group and has been a member for over 20 years. He has written two books, produced a DVD, organises and leads the task day events. Keith is also the main contributor to obtaining grants for the group. Keith's original book, 'Walking the Rivelin' co-authored by Sue Shaw, has now sold over 1250 copies. Keith also manages the RVCG email box and distributes these to the committee members as required.

David Lyon: Treasurer

David maintains a tight grip on the purse strings and protects a healthy bank balance that is kept topped up with membership fees and generous donations. Money from grants is generally spent early as usually a receipt is required to prove the use of the money. Some items like tools and benches remain quite expensive and can very quickly absorb our funds

Derek Hastings: Planning

Derek is an ex-Barnsley Council planning officer and uses his knowledge and experience to keep the RVCG committee and membership abreast of planning submissions and submits the views of the RVCG to official bodies. He is one of the longest serving committee members and actively supports our events when available

Margaret Sanderson: Newsletter

Margaret Sanderson has served the full 26 years as an RVCG committee member. She has been chief editor of the RVCG newsletter for most of that time and kindly provided a brief history of her life in Crosspool. Up until the last couple of years, Margaret also meticulously managed the membership role which has now been handed over to Christine Roe. Margaret also provides support for many RVCG events such as this AGM this evening.

Joan Buckland: Wildlife Recorder

Joan has a fondness for wildlife and has a good general knowledge of nature. She would like to thank everyone who has donated articles of local wildlife and would like more reports from you to give us in the picture. This is important because we need to know as a conservation group, what we are trying to conserve. Joan also supports the RVCG at its public events providing interesting specimens for children to observe.

Sue Shaw: Publications / Botanist

Sue is a very talented individual and has made a major contribution to many aspects of the RVCG. She initially produced the RVCG leaflet describing the group's activities and helped make major improvements to the very latest edition of Keith Kendall's 'Walking the Rivelin'. Sue has been a major contributor to our campaigns regarding the Rivelin Trees and particularly the Councils Flood Prevention proposals. She is a task team regular and often supports our events

Helen Beardmore: Publicity

Helen is a very enthusiastic and dependable committee member taking care of our advertising using the local media to

promote the group's activities. She is also an active member of the task team and supports our local events. She has also been very active in our flood prevention campaign making contact with influential people such as our local MP.

Roger Kite MBE: Conservation advisor

Roger is the ex-chairman of the RVCG and received an MBE award in 2006 for his contribution to local conservation. He continues to be a guiding light for the RVCG and is still very active in giving walks and talks for the RVCG and other organisations. He often supports the task team and other RVCG events

Christine and Graham Roe

Christine is the committee member of the two having taken on the roles of Membership Secretary and RVCG Minute Secretary. Graham Roe supports and complements Christine's role by taking care of the membership database which includes the newsletter distribution lists for which Graham's IT skills have proved invaluable. They also both support our RVCG events.

I would also like give a special thank you to Jonathan and Emma Paragreen for their contribution and support of the group. Jonathan continues to maintain the RVCG website to a very professional standard. Both Jonathan and Emma are active task team members and provide valuable support for our events and helped contribute to the production of the 'Walking in the Rivelin' book.

Also a special thank you to Irene Harrison as 'Speaker Organiser'. This can be quite a challenging role in having to identify and book suitable speakers to meet the expectations of a very discerning RVCG audience. Our Open Meetings have continued to attract increasing numbers who have been enthralled by some very entertaining speakers and we look forward next year's programme of speakers.

Thank you to the following members for their valuable contribution

Graham Appleby	Chairman
Margaret Sanderson	Committee
Keith Kendall	Committee
Joan Buckland	Committee
Derek Hastings	Committee
Sue Shaw	Committee
David Lyon	Committee
Helen Beardmore	Committee
Roger Kite	Committee
Christine & Graham Roe	Committee

Goodwin, Roger & AL Young	Newsletter Deliverer
Mason, David and Anne	Newsletter Deliverer
Roe, Graham and Christine	Newsletter Deliverer
Hastings, Derek and Linda	Newsletter Deliverer
Appleby, Graham & Elizabeth	Newsletter Deliverer
Purslow, Mike and Immogen	Newsletter Deliverer
Albans Helen & Keith	Newsletter Deliverer
Cooper, Martyn and Evelyn	Newsletter Deliverer
Shaw, Dr Sue	Newsletter Deliverer
Lewis, Gareth	Newsletter Deliverer
Robertson Noel	Newsletter Deliverer
Horsfield, Christine & Ian	Newsletter Deliverer
Hill, Euin & Patricia	Newsletter Deliverer
Fish Pat	Newsletter Deliverer
Saunders, Margaret and Terry	Newsletter Deliverer
Whiteley, Rita	Newsletter Deliverer
Bateman Mark	Newsletter Deliverer
Addison Graeme & Janet	Newsletter Deliverer
Edmonds, David & Margaret	Newsletter Deliverer
Hague, David & Marjorie	Newsletter Deliverer
Owen, Maureen	Newsletter Deliverer
Roadhouse, Mavis	Newsletter Deliverer
Hill, John and Jill	Newsletter Deliverer
Davenport, Tony & Jenny	Newsletter Deliverer
Moorhouse Leslie & John	Newsletter Deliverer
Kite, Hilary and Roger	Newsletter Deliverer

Audrey Small;	Task Team
David Mason;	Task Team
derek hastings;	Task Team
Graham Appleby;	Task Team
Graham Wheatcroft;	Task Team
Greg & Hannah Isherwood;	Task Team
Jonathon Bowring;	Task Team
Johnathan & Emma Paragreen;	Task Team
Julie Lawrence;	Task Team
Keith Kendall;	Task Team
Peter Mason;	Task Team
Roger Cose;	Task Team
Sue Shaw;	Task Team
Tony Davenport;	Task Team
Roger Kite	Task Team
Mike Smith;	Task Team
Gareth Lewis;	Task Team
Trevor Prew;	Task Team
Sue Lindley;	Task Team
Robin. G. Smith;	Task Team
Peter Klensberg;	Task Team
Noel R Robertson;	Task Team
Ken Rutter;	Task Team
Jenny Ryan;	Task Team
Scott Berg;	Task Team
Helen Beardmore	Task Team
Irene Harrison	Speaker Organiser
Mavis Roadhouse	Refreshments
Sally Turnbull	Refreshments
Margaret & Bob Townrow	New Members
Richard Jackson	Tool Store
Ken Shail & Sue Thompson	Garden Party Hosts
Tony Davenport	Auditor
Jonathon & Emma Paragreen	Website / posters

Rivelin Walks

I am very pleased to announce that following Sue's article in the last newsletter "Calling all Walkers" we have received our first few walks from readers. These include the circuit from Rivelin cafe to Roscoe Bridge, three one-hour walks from Redmires (including the Wyming Brook circuit), and a 5-mile circular walk from Crosspool Tavern (through Crookes Cemetery, down into Rivelin Valley at Hind Wheel, along to the Packhorse Bridge (Rails Road) and back via Coppice Road). These walks will appear on the website shortly, but we are still on the lookout for more contributions. So if you have a favourite walk that you would be happy to contribute to the website then please get in touch with me at rivelin.valley@gmail.com.

For each walk we would appreciate the following details:

- Start and finish points (with grid references if possible)
- Length
- Grade/difficulty, including notes on gradients and any obstacles such as stiles
- Approximate time taken
- Parking
- Public transport
- Refreshments
- Public toilets
- Brief description.
- Detailed route instructions (including notes on points/places of interest and views along the way).

If possible a sketch of the route will also be appreciated (although we will draw up accurate maps for the website) and any photos you have will help to illustrate walk. Or for the technically minded you can use an app such as "MapMyWalk" to map your walk on your smart phone and then just email me a link to your walk.

We are aiming for a good variety of routes and different levels of difficulty. For inspiration and an idea of how to write up your walk, please see the Bradfield Walkers are Welcome website at:

<http://www.bradfield-walkers.org.uk>

Looking forward to reading some more your interesting walks.

Jonathan Paragreen

THE RECORDER – Summer 2017

The Recorder

It is pouring down as I write, luckily I mowed the lawn yesterday – it was quite long as we had been away for a fortnight. We had some hot days in May and the first half of June but it has been mostly dull since the school holidays started - typical. April was one of the driest recorded and last summer was the hottest worldwide on average. We certainly cannot rely on the old weather sayings any more. Everything in the garden is looking good and the summer flowers are at their best. There are plenty of bees on the Lavender, Marjoram, Monk's Hood and Honeysuckle. These have taken over from the Cotoneaster which, as usual, was a 'hive' of activity with more Honey Bees than last year. Lots of little moths flew up when I mowed the lawn which will keep our Noctule bat well fed. I have not seen many butterflies, just the odd Speckled Wood, Small White, Comma, Red Admiral and Holly Blue. This is in stark contrast to northern Sweden where the road verges are full of colour with many different wild flowers and insects are plentiful. My son's garden (in northern Sweden) was full of butterflies, bees, spiders, moths, grasshoppers and dragonflies. It reminded me of my childhood in the fifties with nature in abundance all around. It is so sad we have lost most of our flower meadows. The roadside verges in the countryside could be mini nature reserves and just cut back in the Autumn when the seeds have set. This would make a huge difference to wildlife and give them corridors throughout the country.

The Sorby Natural History Society is conducting a wildlife survey on allotments which can be useful sanctuaries for creatures, provided chemicals are not used. Anyone with an allotment can send their sightings to me for onward transmission. If you

cannot identify something send me a picture.

The birds in my garden have fared quite well. The Sparrows have been very successful and a small noisy flock is always around the front or the back garden. The Blackbirds, including the one that was caught by the Sparrowhawk, have raised two young. My 'bare back' female Blackbird paired up with a male I called Bicycle Bill. It took me a while to confirm he was the actual source of the bicycle bell ring and not the little girl's bike down the road. I heard him through May and June, with the last time being the 26th June. Hope he is OK. I have had juvenile Robins, Great and Blue Tits, Dunnock and Magpie being fed in the garden. I also had a juvenile Goldcrest flitting through the trees on the 23rd July. A pair of Buzzards has been seen occasionally going down the valley and there were three over the house on the 3rd July at 12.45pm, maybe a family group. The Sparrowhawks are regular visitors through the garden and the Kestrel a rare visitor overhead. A healthy hawk population indicates healthy small bird numbers. There are also good numbers of Jackdaws and Magpies so the song birds have got to be fit to survive. The pair of Swifts, probably nesting at the stables in Clough Fields, now have three young flying with them, and in the evening get-together there have been 16 screaming Swifts. It will not be long before they are winging their way back to their winter homes. It does not seem five minutes since they arrived here. Deer continue to encroach on the city and Kathleen Fisher saw a small brown deer (probably Roe) in the Rivelin valley on the 9th July. According to Ian Rotherham they have been seen in Crookes cemetery also (Sheffield Telegraph).

On 10th May, which was warm and

sunny, I was having lunch in the garden when a swarm of Aphids invaded the garden. This is probably temperature related. The same applies to the ants. There is one day when all the princess ants leave the nest. This usually happens about the last week in July. I have not seen it yet, but maybe I missed it whilst I was away. Has anyone seen it? Please let me know, with the date of occurrence, and we can check if it does happen on the same day in different places.

Enjoy the rest of the summer and let me know what is happening in your garden and area.

Thank you to all who send in their records:-

Peter and Mavis Butler, S6 - have a very busy garden with a great variety of birds including amongst others, finches, tits, Goldcrest, Blackcap, Wren, Brambling, Siskin, Redpoll and Sparrowhawk as well as frogs.

Joyce Green S6 - continues to have a garden full of birds including corvids, pigeons, finches, tits, Wren, Siskin, Blackbirds, Starlings, Sparrows, Pied Wagtail, Goldcrest, Redwing, Mistle Thrush (14/1), Tawny Owl calling(22/1), Stock Dove (11/2), Brambling (14/3), Red Poll (15/3) and Grey Wagtail(5/3).

Stannington is obviously the place to go to see birds.

Vivian Falshaw S10 - 4 Bullfinch 20/3; Goldfinches and 5 Long-tailed tits on 17/3. Tony Bilsborough - 16/4/17 - In valley first path after S bend - 1 pair Mandarin Ducks, Nuthatch, Heron and Yellow Wagtails.

Mary Brazil - Buzzard cruising quite low over Den Bank; Top conservation path Lodge Moor - 5 pairs Peewits (Lapwing), Grouse, Pheasant and Curlew.

Margaret Sanderson S10 - 1/5 - Ringlet butterfly on path in garden.

Sue Shaw - In Rivelin - April/2017 - Chiffchaffs everywhere; Dipper, Treecreeper - Mousehole; Blackcap - Roscoe Allotments; pair Mandarin Upper Cut 3/4 and Havelock 23/4; Willow Warbler - Bolehills. May/2017 - 12th - 20 Swifts over Mousehole, LT Tit feeding young - Roscoe Allotments; 15/4 - Chiffchaff - trees by Valleyside Garden Centre; 22nd - Great Spotted Woodpecker - Roscoe Stepping Stones.

Maureen Owen - Den Bank - Great Spotted Woodpecker visited fatballs several times a day in May. 13/5 - Maureen found a bird box lying on the path next to the hedge between her garden and the garden of a house on Den Bank Drive. The box was full of bees. Graham Appleby came to Maureen's aid and the box is hanging on a tree in the garden with the bees flying 'happily' in and out. Maureen says 'You just never know what you might find as you take a stroll round your garden (or, as in this case, where it has come from).

Colin Best S10 - Blue Tits in box in garden fledged 2.6.17 early in the morning so unable to count how many; 1/6 - Pair Bullfinch - Wolf Dam. Colin makes all his own jams and jellies from fruit from his garden and blackberries from the Rivelin Valley. He says 2015 was a bumper year for brambles. I think this year may also be a good blackberry year so Colin can look forward to more delicious jam.

Neil Porter S6 - Things are looking healthy down the valley according to Neil's bird survey. Among many other sightings in the Spring, the Dippers were collecting nest material; Yellowhammer in garden (very unusual); Little Owl - Coppice Farm; Green Woodpecker very vocal near Tofts Lane; 8 Linnet, Pair Whitethroat displaying; 10 Song Thrush along valley (lovely to hear that); 2 Blackcap; Roscoe Bank survey showed 22 species, including Chiffchaff, Garden Warbler, Blackcap and 17 Swifts over the allotments.

Pauline Higbid S10 - 3/6/17 - Blue and Great Tits both with three fledglings being fed; 5/6 Juvenile Greenfinch and adult on feeder; 3/4 -Pipistrelle flying across garden; 16/6 - juvenile Blue Tits, LT Tits, Greenfinches, Great Tits and Goldfinches feeding themselves in the garden. Lots happening there.

Kath Finch S6 - June - Still lots of Sparrows and Goldfinches on sunflower seed feeders together with Robin, Chaffinches and Blackbirds feeding. Sparrows taking bits of a reed fence for nesting material.

Mr/Mrs Lampeter, S6 - 26.7.17 - Very excited to see a hedgehog in the garden. I am too, I hope it roams in the direction of Den Bank.

Joan Buckland