

# **Westleton Common**



## **Annual Report 2006**

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## Editorial

Welcome to the third edition of the annual report for Westleton Common Group. It is my privilege to edit this edition and I am most grateful to all who have submitted material for the report, without which I would be redundant!!

An annual report, by its nature, reviews all of the activities during the year. This is only right and proper and I think that we can be justifiably proud of our achievements in 2006. Within this report are reports of all the activities through the year and I will not repeat these in this editorial, save to say that the record achievements made are thanks to all of you. So many have helped in so many ways and we are so grateful for your help

Westleton Common belongs to the village and it is so good that many living in the village want to help look after it. All of our events, whether the formal indoor events, or the working parties are such good social occasions. We are always looking for more help so if you know anyone who is yet to “try us out” please do encourage them to come along.

As in 2005 we had the difficult task of trying to account for all the work put into the Common in so many ways. We estimate that a minimum 1200 man hours of work has been put in. A third of this total comes from our regular work parties, the remainder is made up of survey work, producing display material and “behind the scenes” work. Production of this report takes the editor about 60 man hours!!

As you all know the report this year is being produced as a CD Rom. This allows us to include a lot more colour photographs, printing them as hard copy is very time consuming and expensive, I do want to include as many pictures taken in each year as possible.

As always I welcome contributions for the report. Could I please ask contributors to separate the text of any article from any picture that you may wish to include. If I could have the text as a Windows file and the pictures as separate jpeg files, this would make the editing process so much easier.

May I also make another plea? I know that a lot of you regularly visit the Common. Could you please take a notebook and pencil with you and note down anything that you see, even if it is only half a dozen common birds. It is not only birds, but butterfly, reptiles, insects and many other orders – whatever you see. If you could send the records to Alison Paul this would help us build up a more comprehensive picture of life on the Common.

We are in the final stages of putting together an exciting series of events for 2007 and we will circulate details in the near future. I hope that we will see you at one of these events.

In conclusion I would like to thank the committee for their hard work, help and guidance during the year. I am always worried about singling out individuals to thank for fear of alienating those I do not mention. But on a personal level I must thank Alison Paul for her hard work with keeping the records and in particular for keeping me in order!

Doug Ireland  
Chair Westleton Common Group.

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# Memories of Wartime Westleton.

**A report of the talk given by Ron Strowger, Morgan Caines, Tony Sprunt with contributions from Peggy Booth and Caroline Campbell  
Edited by Doug Ireland**

**Editor's note:** *A recording was made, with the permission of the speakers; this has been transcribed and edited. Where appropriate the flavour of the Suffolk accent has been retained which I feel is most important.*

*A draft of this paper was checked by Ron Strowger and Morgan Caines with help from Peggy Booth, during which some additional information has come to light and this has been included to add to the story.*

## Setting the scene

(Ron). I was five and a half when war started, most important when you are five because six months puts you just that little bit farther up the peck order. My memory virtually is of the Common and of the soldiers coming, the huts being built etc. Morgan has got a far better memory of the village than I have, but I think that you should remember, we had no electric light, no mains water, no sewage system, no National Health Service, in fact I think my parents paid 2/6d a month to the Independent Order of the Rechabites, now I am sure some of you here will remember this name. [*For those too young to remember, The Independent Order of Rechabites was a friendly society founded in England in 1935. Before one could join the Rechabites and benefit from their insurance and saving scheme a document had to be signed swearing that the proposed member and his family would not drink any alcoholic beverages. This document was The Pledge – Ed*] So under these conditions we were a poor village. We were poor in material things, not many people had a radio, in every shed there would be at least a pair of rabbits or a pheasant, or in the larder there would be a plateful of herring, because that was the cheap food of the village. So if you have the picture of the village pre-war, I think now is a good time for me to bring Morgan in, because his memory will follow from the late 1920's

(Morgan). I was twelve when war started. I can go back a bit further than Ronnie in the 1930's. I can remember Westleton when there were four cars in the village, there was Harold Newson who had the shop at the bottom of the street, Percy Hillen who had the garage, Percy Holmes who farmed at Red House and Alf Fisk who was a wheelwright.

There were then seven shops in the village:

Mr Newson, Charlie Turner, my grandmother, Lizzy Rous who was where Mr & Mrs Clough live today, Mrs Goddard who was opposite where Mr & Mrs Saunders live, Mrs Mouser up the Blythburgh road, Harry Cooper the butcher where CICO now is, Mr Sprunt who had a shop and also did fish and chips, Cana's father had a motorcycle business next door to Pond House. So it was quite a good village. We did have a cobbler as well, Claud Goddard, he worked where Mr & Mrs Saunders now live, it was a shed underneath and he worked as a cobbler up above. And then of course there was a laundry where Charlie Naphthine lived, it was where the Post Office and shop now is.

In the school here, when I was here there was Miss Guyton who ran the Junior class which is where what is now the Committee room, this room [*Main Hall – Ed*] was split into two, Miss Kerrison taught in that room [*East side*] and Miss Pinching, the head teacher was in this room [*West side*]. There were about 100 children here then, once you were I think it was nine, the Dunwich children were supplied with bicycles and they cycled into Westleton to be taught. Then when we were eleven, before the war, we were supplied with bicycles and we biked into Leiston to the Grammar School there.

*(Additional information: Olive Pinching was known by the children as "Granny" taught the seniors. She lived at Woodbridge and stayed at White House Farm, Darsham and cycled to the school. She did own a car and when she drove in she would pick up Peggy Booth and her brother at Stulps on her way past.*

*Miss Guyton the infant teacher lived in Bramfield and cycled to the school. Later there is mention of a teacher Lola Brown, who came later to the school).*

September 1939 the evacuees came here from Ilford, they were here with their two teachers Mr Gill and Mr Last. For quite a time we did half a day each, one week in the morning the evacuees would

come here and the local children in the afternoon. Eventually it was all integrated and it went back to full-time education. They (the evacuees) all left in May 1940 when the invasion was threatened.

In October 1939 the military came here, it was the 341 Battery Royal Artillery and the Sergeant Major was Sergeant Major Little. [Ron I remember 341 Battery and that is still carved into the millstones].

After this I went into the forces, I was away from here from 1944 to 1949 and just after I arrived back here, the electricity came to Westleton (that was 1949), the water came I think in 1951 or 1952 and the sewage round about 1960. Policeman in the village. From 1935 to 1939 the policeman was George Pretty and then just after the war started he left here and was followed by PC Allum who was here for many years.

The Crown in the 1930's. There was a Mr Clark who was the landlord. Previously he had been a London dentist and he carried on the practice here in The Crown, and as a child I can remember going there and having my teeth taken out. He retired to Middleton about 1945 I think.

About that time most of the people worked on the land and there were a lot of fishermen as well.

(Ron) As Morgan mentioned, in 1932 there were 117 children on the Parish Roll from the ages of five to fourteen. Now when you consider that ten years later it would have been difficult to find fifty children on the roll, there was quite a rapid change in that time.

A good time to bring Tony in. Tony is six months older than me.

(Tony) When we talk about evacuees, I can remember the two buses coming to the bottom of the village near the garage, the children getting off, and people just picking who they wanted, mainly two per family. I lived here for many years my father and grandfather before me, unfortunately not now. One of my neighbours then Cana, I see is here. He lived opposite me in School House and Carol from down on the farm.

My mother first came to Westleton as a District Nurse and believe it or not she lived and lodged with Morgan Caines which was in The Poplars. Morgan was a little boy. Before I came here tonight I sorted out some photos and found one of Morgan as a little boy, and another where my father learned him to ride a bike. As I said my mother came into the village as a District Nurse. She rode a high-up bicycle and went round the villages and a lot of children were helped to be born including Ronnie and Morgan. My father was a game dealer, he used to buy rabbits and pheasants. He joined up before he should have done, and out of the army and home before he was eighteen without his leg. He driv a car, I do not know how he did it but he driv a car, he went round collecting rabbits and pheasants and made a business out of it. We lived where Mrs Parker does now. He had a small shop there in the front of it. He used to mend boats, cut hair and he had a fish and chip shop behind. And then he had an enterprising job, he went down to Minsmere and found the wood off the beach, built a little hut and sold cups of tea there. I went to school and sat in this room. We were a poor old school, we never had any electricity, never had any sanitation as such. We used to have old big squares of newspaper up in the toilet and I used to sit huddled up to keep warm when I was up in the toilet. But that was life in those days. There was no telephone. We had to go to the kiosk to make a telephone call, you could not ring up to find out what was on in the next village because we never knew.

There seemed to be a lot more snow in those days. They used to come in lorries and dig it out and carry it away. In 1947 we played ice hockey on the Green ditch, weekend in and weekend out. We had an old tin filled with a bit of dirt and some sticks and got on with it. We really enjoyed it.

[Morgan – I was lying on the beach in Bombay listening on the radio to all the troubles in England]

Village life was a bit different then, but I enjoyed it. Jim Fisk was great to us kids. He started a youth club at the school. He organised a number of plays. Ronnie was in a play. I was in a play called "The Emperors New Clothes" and "The Mountain Ash", we always held them at the W.I Hut. We went round different villages with various plays and pantomimes. Life was different but I enjoyed it.

(Additional information: Old Abe Woolnough who owned the Black Sheds on the Green was the star of "The Emperors New Clothes". He had a lovely voice, I can see him now on the stage, first time I'd seen a man in underwear – Long John's and vest – lumps everywhere !! –Peggy)

(Ron). It is said that everybody has got a novel inside their head. Westleton could be a best seller, a saga. What more do you want? You got romance, war and murder. We had a murderer walking in our midst during the war and that was a rather interesting story, and we have had a terrible tragedy and we will come to that later.

We did not have any refuse collection, but we did have a form of recycling. Now because there was no refuse collection, any large pit, rather like the lay-by's are today is deemed to be a good place to use as a tip. There were several places in and around Westleton where rubbish would be tipped, and as boys we used to scour these and if we

could find a 1 lb jam jar we would clean it out and we would get a ½d for it. If we found a 2 lb jam jar, wash it out and we would get a penny for that. And a penny for a rats tail. If you saw a rat laying alongside the road, you were lucky if you found a tail on it, if you did, and I always carry a knife, I would knick it off and when the rat catcher came along I would get a penny for it. [*Morgan – Hicky Chapman used to collect them, I think he used to lose them, but got them again. He did them up in bundles of 20. I know he lost one or two bundles but I don't think he paid for them again.*]

*(Additional information: An old boy named Thurston from Darsham would pay 2d but you had to bring him the whole rat. He would come to Bakers Lane near Flint Cottage and spend a day there. Old rats used to stink then he told us just to bring the tails).*

## **The Army and a Murderer.**

(*Ron*) – now my memory of the Army coming here started when there was three people walked up our garden – I don't know whether you all know where I live, it is on the edge of the Common. There was a policeman and two soldiers walked up our garden with a clipboard in their hand. My father came out and met them. They said we are going to need your property, we are going to put an army camp around here. My father – the family motto is “we don't take prisoners” told them that if they wished to have the property, the next time you come you will need to bring a gun with you. And we never heard no more.

A few day later, and I cannot remember too much of this, gangs of workmen arrived. They would dig out areas where they would put a brick foundation, and then a corrugated iron army hut would appear. There is a map there on which I have indicated where every hut was, which you may find interesting (see Appendix A). They then put posts in the ground and wooden army huts appeared and they stretched all the way from where I live to where we now store our tools on the Common.



A Nissan Hut still standing in the 1950's. Note the Railway carriage behind. The dragline is trench digging, Possibly for taking a water supply to the gravel workings.  
(*Photo: Alf Fisk courtesy of Cana Turner*)

An army man was known as “Water cart Willy”. He would bring water in for the troops. Now there is a young lady in here tonight who will remember that don't you Peggy? His name was Harold Hill. The cart that he pulled round was like a 100 gallon bowser, he towed that on the back of a 25 cwt van or lorry. He brought water to the soldiers which they would use to drink and wash in until the well was sank. Apparently, and I have the names here which I trust are right, the girls names that he murdered were Joyce and Doreen Hearne. Previous to being in Westleton, he came from St.Albans and he done exactly the same thing there, he carried water round in a bowser for the soldiers. I have been told that the army were lined up all around our village green, there must have been several hundred of them, the Special Branch Police then went round, nobody was arrested, but a few days later “Water cart Willy” as we cheekily knew him or Harold Hill as he was, was a few days later whisked away and later hung. I know that you are all waiting for the romance now.

(*Peggy*) They arrested Harold Hill. It was a Sunday morning, they had all the trucks around the Green and all their kit laid out, we came out of church, and of course being youngsters we were allowed to go on the Green. They arrested another man first and put in the Guard Room and then they arrested Harold Hill later. He was hung on May 1<sup>st</sup>, I cannot remember which year, but always remember that day.

He was held in the Guard House (now Lincoln's Post Office and Store), us galls used to talk to him over the stable door. The guards used to exercise him round the Streets everyday, he was a man that had no hair on his head and he wore glasses – that's what I remember about him.

*(Question from floor)* were the soldiers from Herts? Yes from St.Albans. *(Peggy)* this Battery had been stationed in Westleton before, but that Battery went away and came back again.

*(Ron)* When the soldiers first came into Westleton, I was told that a lot were billeted in houses in the village where there were spare bedrooms. Urquarts Barn, which is now split into two dwellings, is where several score of soldiers were billeted, for a couple of days but they came away quickly because apparently they were lousy, the place was full of fleas and rats. The Barn, which is where Mr Turner lives, that was occupied by the army, Ralph's Mill that was occupied by the army and that's an interesting point. My mother had some shirts to wash for the soldiers, or the officers who lived in the Mill, my father came home from work and saw about eight shirts flying on the line, and he said who are they for, and when she told him, he told her what she could do. He was quite a hard man in that respect. He said if you want to wash the corporals or the privates' shirts yes, but you aren't washing those ..... Officers, so mother had to take the shirts back to them and that was the end of that relationship.

Now when I was a child, roaming around the army camp between my house and The Cleeves was completely bare, no trees, the occasional gorse bush that was about all – what escaped us on Guy Fawkes night. Marvellous for Guy Fawkes night.

*(Tony)* We used to have to go and get gorse faggots for mother to put in the boiler.

*(Ron)* So between my house and The Noddle, it was completely bare. An interesting thing happened, near The Noddle they built the Observer Post. The Observer Post overlooked our house and the sun rising in the east, if they were in the observer post as they should have been looking out for aeroplanes, my mother would see the glint of the binoculars if she stood at the window and she was not very pleased. She would, and she could swear (you think Billy Connolly can swear you should have heard her) – you should have listened to parents, but it was part and parcel of village life – we said it like it was.

*(Tony)* Where the Observer Corps had their dug out post and down below towards the Reckford Road was a wonderful water spring (The Rock Holes). Halfway up the hill there used to be a spring and the water used to run all day, 24 hours for ever, a day. I don't know, but I see no reason why it shouldn't be.

*(Ron)* Getting back to the binoculars and the reflection in the window, my mother would walk past the window and say that she was being observed by those layabouts and my father would tell her to shut up in no uncertain terms. But I often wonder, and I have never found out from anyone who was there, Mother as she went past the window would give the "Winston Churchill" salute to them, on the chance that they were looking at her at the same time. I have seen her doing this scores of times, as she went past the window, she would give the "Winston Churchill" salute to them.

## **The "Rock Holes"**

Tony mentioned the Rock Holes, now there were three at one time, but only two ever had water in them. It is rather strange and a point worth noting, I think that they were dug by well diggers and it was part and parcel of the scene. I will just read out how they were made:

"A saucer shaped hollow would be cut in the ground four to six feet deep, the bottom would be covered with clay, there would be a layer of dry straw put on top of that and then stones, rocks, rubble whatever was available, it would be filled with water and it would never apparently run dry. In all my experience as a lad I can never ever remember them running dry. The reason they give for this is because they say that straw is a non conductor of heat, so at the base it remains cool. When darkness comes the cold clay attracts more moisture than the earth around apparently, very little of the moisture is dew, it seems to come from the mists that are in the air or the cold. They are also known as "Cloud Ponds", "Fog Ponds" or "Sheep Ponds". We know them in Westleton as the "Rock Holes".

*(Morgan)* It would be worthwhile trying to clear them out and see what there is in there.

*(Ron)* and another interesting snippet there, just above the Rockholes when it was lovely grassland with a few shingle banks, that was where motorcycles used to do their first hill climb and then progressed from there up to Mumberry Hills – it has been a lovely playground.

*(audience)* That became very famous because I can remember on television, the announcer said we are doing this from Westleton which is somewhere near Leston!

*(Tony)* There used to be a Jock Horsfall memorial, a memorial to Jock Horsfall who was a British racing driver. He used to live in Dunwich, in Cliff House. He used to have a green car, British Racing Green, he used to drive that on the road in those days. Mumberry Hills one of the races was for the Jock Hall Memorial Cup.

*(Morgan)* He was killed at Silverstone in 1948 I think.

*(Additional information: Mumberry Hills known locally as Mumberry Holes the site of "The Hill Climb" and later as a scramble track held each year by The Leiston Motor Cycle Club.)*

## Plane Crashes and Tragedies.

*(Ron)* Another interesting thing that used to happen to us, aeroplanes used to crash quite regularly around Westleton. The first one I remember going to was up by Walk Barn Farm. I think that it was a Wimpey. We would raid them and get.....

*(Peggy)* That was a Flying Fortress at Walk Barn Farm, it belly landed on Mumberry Hills – as kids we were never allowed to go in it.

*(Additional information: The plane that crashed on Walk Barn field, north east corner adjacent to footpath 17, was I believe a Fortress although I am not 100% certain.*

*On 10 July 1945 a Fortress did pancake to the west of Mumberry Hills ploughing a long trail finishing just to the south of the Mill stones)*



Boeing B-17G Flying Fortress Photo: Doug Ireland

*(Morgan)* A Wellington came down across the Blythburgh Road.

*(Ron)* We would get the bullets, remove the cordite from them by busting them open. If we were brave enough we would put the cartridge in a vice and hit it with a hammer.

*(Tony)* We had races round the school wall, putting cordite round the school wall

*(Ron)* My brother and a lad named Alec (Bibby) Baggott, they found some thunder flashes which hadn't quite gone off. Bibby Baggott was holding one as my brother lit it. He nearly lost the sight in one of his eyes, Bibby was bandaged up after that.

We all had our near misses and we were rather unfortunate. On Ash Wednesday 1945, I think it was, three lads in the village found a 2 inch mortar bomb. They were trying to remove the brass cap from it by hitting it on the road, one was killed (*now known to be Frank Alexander*), one was seriously injured (*now known to be Ivor King*) and another lad had just a few bits of shrapnel in him. Ivor who was badly injured, was a Westleton lad, he lived in the Council houses, if it had not been for the American Air Force at Leiston, he would have died. Because they took him there and he had blood transfusions. So we had our tragedies, now I have got to come to the romance.

*(Tony)* Ronnie was talking about aeroplane crashes. I was fortunate, or unfortunate depending on the way you look at it, to be at my father's smallholding up the Darsham Road, about 1944 I think it was, and I was busy watching this plane go across the sky, when all of a sudden it just blew up. We wondered what was going on. We all got on our bikes, I met my cousin down by the White Horse, Jacqueline, and we biked to Blythburgh and we found this plane on the five finger post at Blythburgh with everything all over the Common. We weren't there long before we got turned off. Later on in life I found out that the pilot was Joseph Kennedy, the Kennedy brothers. There were only two men in that plane, the pilot and the navigator and the idea was to pack the plane full of explosives and when they reached the coast to put them on remote control and parachute out. Then to fly to the V1 or "Doodlebug sites". I think that out of the five tried like that only two managed to get through.

*(Morgan)* This one at Blythburgh was caused by the radar on Dunwich Heath.



NA P-51 Mustang Photo: Doug Ireland

(Ron) A young lady here tonight, was in The Wilderness at the time working when two Mustangs crashed, right Peggy? You actually saw them come down?

(Peggy) We were in the Meadow Way and ran across, there was a propeller here and bits there. There was us two girls and Derek Robertson who lived in Westleton, he pulled us under a pile of faggots, we had been making faggots. We went across, we just got over to the plane, they were buried nose into the ground, the tracer bullets were going off. The "Meat Wagon", the American ambulance was there as soon as they hit the ground. The people in the village thought they had come down in "The Wilderness", so Percy Hillen at the garage sent one of his lorry drivers, Jack Jordan it was, up to "The Wilderness" because he said there's two girls working up there and he brought us home. The men were buried in the holes you see. They never got the men who were buried in the holes.

After a little while, my father who lived at Stulps, we lived at Stulps you see, they gave him ten shillings to fill each hole in. A few years ago my cousin was at Parham airfield where they have got the museum, and he said they had got the bodies out, but I don't think they did. He said that they found an airman's wallet and a few personal things and he said they sent them to the relatives. I am sure the planes were on fire and everything was burnt, the pilots were burnt. We stood round watching, we could do nothing. They told us to clear off because the bullets were going off. For years they lay there and every time I went up Devils Lane I said that's an American grave there and that's another the other side of the road. I still think of those boys who were buried there.

That plane that came down on Blythburgh Road, I found out later from Parham airfield, the museum, that that was the one that Kennedy was in, the one that blew up. We were looking out the window at Stulps, the front window, and mother said "oh look at that ball of fire" and that was this ere plane. Blew up in the air up in the sky. We got on our bikes, my brother and I, we thought that it had come down at Hinton, we went on to Hinton and followed this road to Blythburgh Common. They put out big sheets, all of the men were blew to pieces, we picked up bits of flesh and laid on the sheets, we thought nothing about it. We thought we were helping, we were doing a good job. But there was no thing as big as an arm or nothing they were all little pieces. We thought no more about it. Being a gamekeeper's daughter I was used to hanging pheasants and things. We did not know who was in the planes but when I went up to Parham airfield they've got pictures of that.

I remember another time there was an American Fortress came in on fire. I was working down at Train Arch Hill, Yoxford Road, we were thrashing and this plane come over and dropped all the bombs along the Yoxford Road, Train Arch Hill to the houses on the bottom of the hill where Ada Ramsby was living then. These parachutes came out, two went over us, two went that way and two over the marshes. We thought that they were Germans, "what the hell are they bombing us for", my father and I rounded up two of them with a pitchfork, I don't know what we thought we would do with them. They are Americans, so my Dad swore, they said that they thought the road was a river. The pilot stayed in the plane, he was badly burnt, he took the plane over Darsham Station, so that it missed the houses. Two of the parachutes came right over Westleton and landed in Westleton. The shrapnel, I was on the drum and the old boy, poor old Nuggy Aldred and Frank Rous who live in the village now, he dragged me under the drum, the shrapnel was hitting the drum. I've still got a piece of it at home – we were very lucky there. We really thought that they were the Germans!

(Ron) Do you remember The Grange being bombed? The landmine dropping at The Grange.

(Peggy) Oh yes, I didn't hear a damned thing, I slept right through it. When I got up in the morning, we were only a couple of fields away from The Grange you see, the window in my bedroom was broke and mother shouted up "be careful when you get up here a lot of glass about". My Dad had gone down to Grange Farm to let the cattle out and I never heard a thing. It broke lots of windows in the village.

(Ron) Caroline do you remember that?

(Caroline) "I cannot remember very much about it, I was only this big. I heard my mother and father talk about it.

(Peggy) Cause you lived in the cottage next door to my mum near The Grange.

(Caroline) Apparently they had been trying to bomb the wooden pylons at Darsham.

*(Additional information: The pylons were from the early days of Radar. There were four wooden poles placed on the east side of A12/Bramfield junction and six steel ones built on north side of Bramfield Road. The large generator used by the R.A.F to supply the power needed was bought by A.S.Beare and used at Westleton Saw Mill for many years. Ron says that he was starting it one morning when it blew up.)*

(Peggy) Before they dropped the land-mine they were dropping incendiaries. My father asked my mother "do you go out and see what is going on". He was not going to get up, so my mother looked out the window and saw all of these incendiaries coming down, and she said "I think Sydney they are dropping a bomb by parachute". He said "that's probably it, do you get back in bed with me, we come this far together, we'll probably die together".

It damaged the church, it knocked the steeple off Westleton church and it never was put up though they claimed the money for it!

*(Additional information: to raise money to rebuild the Dove Cote on the church, small cardboard oblongs (representing a brick) were sold at 6d a time, suitably inscribed – a lot were sold. Do any still exist?)*

(Caroline) There were a lot of windows put in in the village. My brother was with, you know Donny Denmark, he built a little house behind a garden wall where this land-mine dropped, a huge crater it made. Donny and my little brother wanted to go and sleep in this little house he had made, but my father said no, it is too early to go in. They would have been killed outright. My father was extremely brave, there were eight cart horses in the stable, and one of them called "the old grey mare" could not bear being touched. You always had to get up and get the halter over the top of her. There was this roof, a thatched roof, the second biggest thatched roof in East Anglia, and all this roof was on fire. My father went to release the horses and the cattle. Of course Ted Jordan has always got the story that he went down that same morning to get the milk, they used to go and get the milk for the school every morning. My mother said to Ted "well there won't be any milk this morning" and he said there was colossal carnage with half of the cattle dead. There's no record of these things, no photographs, nothing written down. Now with modern technology everything is recorded. My mother could not afford a film for the camera (Peggy you couldn't get them then because they all went to the forces). So therefore we have no recollection of these things.

There wasn't much water, my father who was supposed to be part of the fire brigade, couldn't get any, the old horse pond never had much water in it.

## Preparing for D-Day.

(Ron) So Westleton did have quite a few interesting moments. There was one doodlebug which did enter the marshes, just the other side of Westleton's boundary (Peggy down the Reckford Run). But we were fairly lucky. I think that it was the soldiers and their camps which the Germans were after. But we were reasonably fortunate in the village.

We had a good strong Home Guard brigade, we had a strong Royal Observer Corps.

(Peggy) My father belonged to that. Now it wasn't only your mother they used to look at either through those ere binoculars, I can tell you.

(Ron) It was not unusual for me to come home and there would be a couple of soldiers in what we call the "Backus" and they would be cleaning their shoes or doing a bit of sewing. I remember coming home and there was an army lorry in our garden and they were waterproofing it. I think it was prior to the invasion, prior to D-Day.

(Tony) They used to get the Bren Gun Carriers and put all this plasticine inside it, go through the village pond to see if they leaked.

(Ron) And I think on one occasion they tried to take a tank through it, I don't know if this is right or not, I was told this. Do you remember this Tony? – a Churchill tank

(Tony) there were several things, there is one story told that there's a steam roller sunk in there and never seen no more.

## Wartime Songs.

(Ron) I think that's just about it. Well there is just one more story, which I only wish could have been recorded on telly to be played time and time again. I remember going to Leiston pictures and it shew a group of soldiers, marching in Burma or somewhere I think and they were singing the little poem which they made up about Hitler, Goering and Goebbels – are you familiar with that one?

Now as children, we latched onto this pretty quickly with the help of the soldiers round here, they soon learnt us this little poem. We all had guns, we all had sticks shaped like a gun. Can you imagine a half a dozen to a dozen children marching, singing out:

“Hitler had only got one ball, the others in the Albert Hall  
Goering had got two but they were very small  
Himmler had something similar  
But poor old Goebbels had no balls at all.”

Honestly if only that moment could have been captured, it would have been played over and over again.

(Tony) Is there anyone lives in Westleton now who was an evacuee and has now come back here?

(Morgan) There are some people – Ron Reeve at Darsham, he was here in the village hall last Sunday and I thought he was coming tonight. He came here as an evacuee and was billeted with my Aunt May in the Poplars, which is now Pond House.

(Ron) If anyone has any questions.

(Peggy) Do you remember the song we used to sing wartime “Will you come Abyssinia when you come, bring your own ammunition and your gun. Mussolini will be drinking all the ginger beer, will you come Abyssinia will you come.” There’s a much ruder one you know.

(Audience) You did not tell us about the romance

(Ron) Living where I did, the sergeants’ hut was only a few yards from our fence. There were four beds in the sergeants hut, and my mother who done a very good neighbourhood watch, would say, and no names no pack drill because there are relations still alive in the village, but the young ladies did look after the sergeants. There was a war on, we must not forget that must we? Times were pretty grim, you know life expectancy for the soldiers wasn’t very much at all, so we must not look on it as a bad thing. There were several girls in the village who married, there was Peggy Harper, there was Sam Kennedy, Joan King, Bessie Hatcher. Peggy, I believe you had an American boyfriend?

(Peggy) Oh yeah I did when I was 16, he was only 19. At the time America seemed to be such a long way away, but I have been to America four times, even been to Virginia where he came from.

*(Additional information: local girls who married members of the forces:*

*Peggy Harper married Eddie Dorey  
Vera Fisk married an American officer  
Joan King married Harry Locker  
Bessie Hatcher married Tom Feakins  
Miriam Baggot married an American soldier  
Agnes Napthine married ?)*

*(Ed - Further research has provided more information about the above marriages:*

*Peggy S.A. Harper m Eddie Dorey in January-March 1946 quarter, GRO reference Blyth Vol.4a Page 2689*

*Vera G Fisk m Edgar L. Banks in July-September 1945 quarter, GRO reference Blyth Vol 4a Page 4059*

*Joan M King m Harry Locker in October-December 1944 quarter, GRO reference Blyth Vol 4a Page 2603*

*Bessie Hatcher m Tom Feakins in October-December 1946 quarter, GRO reference Blyth Vol 4a Page 1827*

*Miriam E Baggott m Roy A Steele in July-September 1945 quarter, GRO reference Blyth Vol 4a Page 4067*

*Agnes A Napthine m Frank C Fumeaux in July-September 1944 quarter, GRO reference Ipswich Vol 4a Page 2619. GRO = General Register Office)*

(Ron) Now another little story I must tell you, I have just thought about it. In Middleton there lived a young man, and just after the war he found a cache of hand grenades. He climbed up a tree by Rackfur (Reckford). Our local policeman went along and he said in a stern voice “come down”. The young man got the grenade and said I’ll come down and he was going to pull the pin out. So that was rather exciting! He went away for a holiday!

I forgot all about this (picking up a sign). These signs were all round the village, not the village, Mumberry Hills and I managed to get one. A game we had as boys, we used to stone them, and you can see the abrasions there. We picked up numerous bullets from aeroplane etc. We had literally hundreds perhaps thousands (Peggy – we used to make cigarette lighters out of them).

Two decorations made out of bullets, they came from a Spitfire I think, the bit on the bottom is Perspex which came from the windscreen.



A wartime warning sign  
(Sign loaned by Ron Strowger)

(Tony) It's a good job that the Army was here, because none of the boys in the village would ever be able to swim, couldn't get on the beach.

(Morgan to Tony) Course I was taught by your father.

(Tony) We swam in the pond.

(Ron) These (shells) were used for training. Inside was a phosphorus flare and a small parachute, that cap would be unscrewed, put on a rifle and fired up in the air. It would probably go up there a mile, it would come down and would light up the whole area. We would find, I wouldn't say hundreds but certainly scores of these, and play with them.

(Penny Rous) I wasn't born in the war but my husband was and lived here. He was born in 1940 and said that as children they went up to the army camp and they were given treats, things they would not be otherwise able to get. The Army kept the children in the village well nourished in many ways.

(Ron holding a gas mask) This is just about where I sat as we had gas mask lessons. We had to carry these at all times. We did find that if we wore them, if we blew in them and just pulled the side there, it made rather a rude sound!

(Tony) I would just like to tell you one thing about this school, it's something that stick in my memory more than anything. As somebody said there was to be a partition across there, the top half was glass, there was a doorway just there. The senior class used to be in this side (*west side-Ed*) and the Junior class in that side (*east side-Ed*) and the Infants used to be in there (*committee room-Ed*).

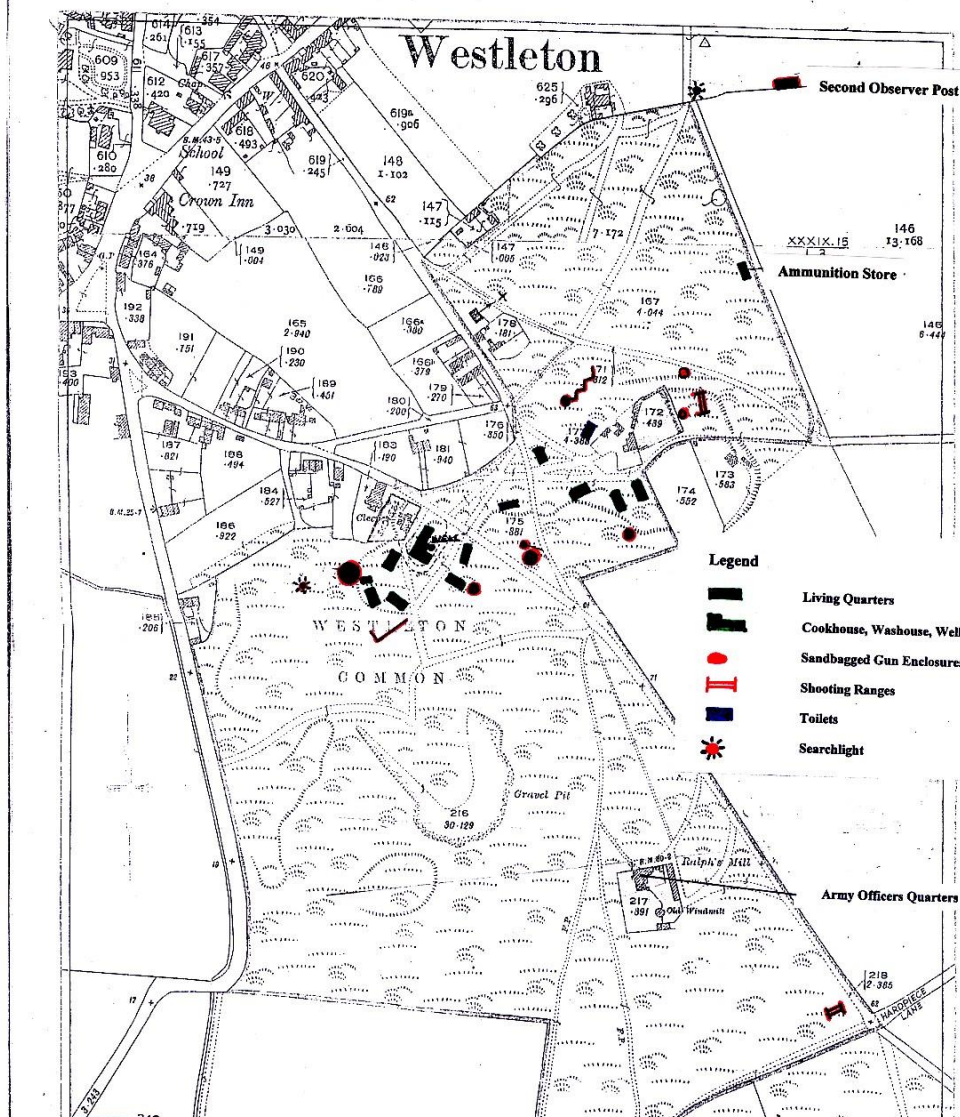
Well I was in this class and several other boys, in fact Peggy's brother Peter was one of em. Peggy might even have been one of them, I dunno. We were all sit here and Miss Pinching, who you know was the headmistress, she came in and she was writing on the board. As she wrote on the board everyone started to laugh, so of course she turned round and had a beautiful red face, everybody stopped. So she turned round and started write and everyone started laughing again. This went on for several times. Suddenly Mrs Lola Brown looked round and put her head over the glass to see what was going on. She came running through the doorway there, and pulled the lady outside. When she came back her face was the colour of that light (*red-Ed*). The poor lady had only been writing with her skirt tucked in her pants.

(Peggy) What about the gas masks that the children, the babies had to have? I had a brother born just before the war broke out and he had one of those huge things and he was supposed to go in it, but he was scared. If you touched the box he screamed, you would never get him on it. Then the other brother, my brother Alec he had a Mickey Mouse one, a red one with big flat ears and a flappy nose for the children see.

Another thing you have not mentioned is when the guns came down the Wash Lane. They brought some guns and put them down the Wash Lane, I don't know if there were four or six guns, do you remember Caroline?

(Caroline) No I just remember the searchlight, the big searchlight.

(Peggy) They came down there and my father went down there and asked the officer what are you doing? He said we have got to put these guns down here. They did not put them on the land, they were putting them in the ditches, the ditches where the water ran down from Darsham down to the Reckford Run. He said "when it rains you are going to be flooded out", well we've got orders and they have to go in here. I can remember being terrified because thought if they're going to fire them guns the Germans are going to bomb them and are going to bomb our house. Well it rained, didn't it rain, I expect you remember the Wash Lane how it used to get flooded don't you. It rained and they got flooded out. We thought it was hilarious. They cleaned the guns and put them back in there, they didn't move them you know, but I can never remember them firing them. They didn't fire them when the Doodlebugs were about. It's the guns up on the Common between Westleton and Dunwich they used to fire them when the aeroplanes and the Doodlebugs were about.



### Westleton Common

Layout of Army Camp during World War II

Original Map drawn by Ron Strowger from Memory and from "Scars" still visible on the Common



**Aerial Photograph of Westleton Common  
taken just after the War, showing traces of  
occupation by the Army**

# An Outdoor Laboratory

In some years the silvery webs of gorse mites (*Tetranychus lintearius*) are seen on gorse bushes around the Common. The mite which sucks sap from the gorse spines weakens and kills them and may be a factor in controlling the vigour of gorse bushes. Their effect on the bushes is often nullified by a little black ladybird (*Stethorus punctillum*) which eats the mite, its eggs and larvae and the success of the mite colonies may also be affected by rain which damages their webs, trapping and killing mites.

Observations on the Common and other places in Westleton showed that mite numbers fluctuated from year to year and in some years they disappear altogether. The reasons why this should be so and where the mites go when they are not infesting the gorse bushes are intriguing problems for which the Common provides an ideal outdoor laboratory.

## References

Kirby E.J.M. (2005) Gorse mites and their predators. *British Wildlife* **16**: 314-317.

Kirby E.J.M. (2006) Population fluctuations in gorse mites. *Suffolk Natural History* **42**: 55-60.

Michael Kirby



*Photo Michael Kikby*

## Notice Boards 2006

Notes on seasonal topics were displayed as illustrated mini-posters in the notice boards.

Topics included:

Rotters on the Common (Wood rotting fungi)

Grey Willow on the Common

Bracken

Elder

Shakespeare on the Common (Eglantine rose and honeysuckle)

Labyrinth spider or web weaver

Bramble

Drought

Biological Soil Crusts

Michael Kirby

*The posters gave much pleasure and interest to everyone throughout the year. The one that gave particular delight compared the colourful intricate mosaic of lichens on the ground to a recent painting, the world's most expensive, which had been sold for a record sum well into millions of pounds.*

*Two of these topics, on Biological Soil Crusts and on Drought are included in the Report. Copies of all the posters are deposited in the Westleton Village Archives.*

*(Alison Paul)*

## **Drought effects on Westleton Common in 2006.**



Many plants on the Common showed severe stress due to the extremely hot, dry conditions. From 7 June until 1 July Westleton has had only 7 mm of rain, far below normal. Temperatures exceeded 30 °C on 6 days and there were periods with strong, drying winds.

Such weather conditions cause high rates of evapo-transpiration (loss of water from plants). At first the plants respond by wilting, closing the pores through which water is lost and then as the water stress increases, the cells in the leaf suffer irreparable damage and die.

Most of the soil of the Common is deep sand. Sand stores less than one-third of the amount of water stored by a loam or clay soil, and water stress sets in earlier and is more severe on sandy soils. Plants adapted to growing on dry sandy soils have evolved various strategies to avoid stress such as deep rooting, reduced leaf area or life cycles where the plant grows and flowers early in the season before there is any shortage of water.

The difference in response to drought among the different plant forms was seen on the Common where, for example, gorse and broom which are leafless and have photosynthetic stems were generally unaffected whereas leafy plants like dog rose and brambles were severely stressed and in some cases their leaves died off.

There were also differences in the way in which different plants of the same species responded. The birch trees among the willows (see photo) or at the entrance to the north Common were completely brown whereas others remained green and apparently little affected. The reason for such differences may lie in differences in soil depth and soil texture over the Common. Apart from some young trees and seedlings the oaks appeared normal with no signs of stress although photosynthesis and growth may have been much reduced. Roots of oak trees go down much deeper than the roots of the birch which is sometimes blown over, uprooting a large area of shallow roots (the roots plate).

The colours of the dead leaves were superficially similar to those associated with autumn leaf fall, but the physiological changes are different. The autumn colours of birch leaves are because the tree anticipates winter by changes in day-length and degrades the chlorophyll and withdraws the nitrogen before it forms an abscission layer (zone of weakness leading to leaf fall). This reveals other leaf pigments which give the autumn colours. Drought kills the leaf cells and the colours are the result of death of cells.

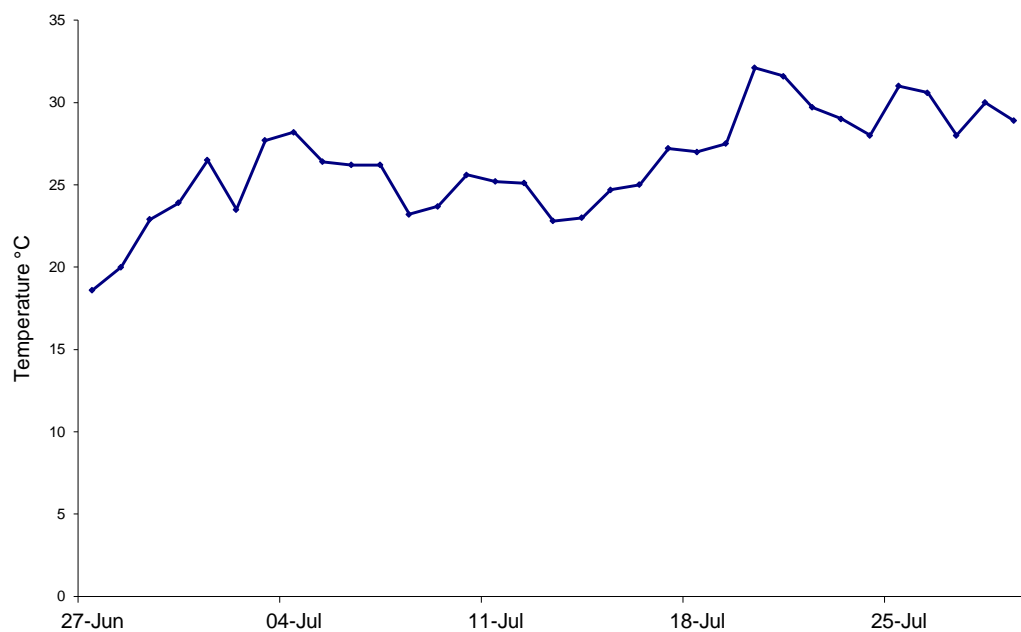
The meristems (growing points which produce the new leaves) were probably unaffected and most species will recover from stress and grow normally next season. Some, for example elder, resumed leaf production after the first significant rainfall. Where drought affected plants such as heather before flowering they will not flower or seed until next season.

At some time in the future a tree feller may notice a particularly dense and narrow annual growth ring, a reminder of the drought of 2006.

Michael Kirby

## Westleton Maximum and minimum temperature

(Temperature was measured in a Stevenson screen within 500 m of the Common)



27 June- 29 July



Westleton Common, July 24 2006. The leaves on the birch trees are dead and falling but the oak trees on left and right and the willows behind the birches are less affected.

*Photo Michael Kirby*

## Biological Soil Crusts

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In some of the sandy places on the common where vegetation such as gorse or heather has not established, the sand is not bare, but is covered by a community of highly specialized organisms. This soil-surface community consists of lichens, mosses, liverworts, cyanobacteria (blue green algae) algae, microfungi, and other bacteria in differing proportions. These weave throughout the top few millimeters of soil, gluing loose sand particles together. This forms a 'biological soil crust' up to a few centimetres thick which stabilizes and protects soil surfaces.

The crust stabilises the sand surface, absorbing the impact energy of rain drops and preventing water and wind erosion and providing places where the seeds of higher plants such as heather can germinate and establish. Photosynthesis by the mosses and liverworts provides organic matter which together with nitrogen fixation by the blue green algae improves the soil fertility.

Photo: Heather seeds (oval, honey colour) have fallen onto the soil crust among lichen and moss. The moisture and the protection afforded by the soil crust will allow them to germinate and establish seedlings



The role of the crust can be seen in the SE corner of the Common around the wooden bench where the former 'sand heap' has developed a crust, and in places heather is becoming established.



Identification of the organisms of the biological soil crust is difficult and in the case of the blue green algae and fungi requires special techniques and equipment. The textures, shapes and colours of the crust, however make it worth while getting down on hands and knees for a close look.

The photograph shows the red apothecia (spore-bearing bodies).of a lichen (*Cladonia* sp.) ranging in size from 1 to 10 mm. This occurs widely on the Common.

# Birds of Westleton Common 2006

I opened my talk at the Christmas Social by saying that Sandling Heaths were not noted for large congregations of birds such as found on Wetlands. Rather than quantity you can expect quality.

In 2006, 94 species of birds were recorded at the Common, which is a very respectful total, but it has to be admitted that many records refer to birds over flying the Common.

For the third year the breeding birds were censused by Richard Drew. Census work this year was severely hampered by cold, wet and windy weather in April and May. By the time the weather improved in June, many pairs of birds had stopped singing and were busy rearing broods of young. Add to this the hot dry weather in July that caused a change in behaviour leading to further problems with survey work. It is quite possible that with these problems some birds were missed. Too much, should not therefore, be read into this years results. We hope for better census weather in 2007.

## List of visits

- |    |          |
|----|----------|
| 1  | 27 March |
| 2  | 18 April |
| 3  | 30 April |
| 4  | 2 May    |
| 5  | 9 May    |
| 6  | 16 May   |
| 7  | 23 May   |
| 8  | 3 June   |
| 9  | 13 June  |
| 10 | 21 June  |

## List of Species Maps (not included with the report)

- |     |  |
|-----|--|
| 1.  | Greenfinch, Coal tit, Goldcrest                |
| 2.  | Woodlark, Pied wagtail, Goldfinch              |
| 3.  | Magpie, Jay, Cuckoo                            |
| 4.  | Red-legged Partridge, Pheasant, Skylark        |
| 5.  | Bullfinch, Linnet                              |
| 6.  | Green woodpecker, Great spotted woodpecker     |
| 7.  | Mistle thrush, Song thrush, Lesser whitethroat |
| 8.  | Great tit, Blue tit                            |
| 9.  | Robin  |
| 10. | Chiffchaff, Willow warbler                     |
| 11. | Yellowhammer, Wren                             |
| 12. | Chaffinch                                      |
| 13. | Blackbird, Long tailed tit                     |
| 14. | Nightingale, Dunnock                           |
| 15. | Blackcap, Garden warbler, Whitethroat          |
| 16. | Turtle dove, Collared dove.                    |

## Notes on some species.

**Little egret**      one flew west 29 March

**Mute swan**        three or four records of over flying birds

**Whooper swan**    nine birds observed flying north in mid December

**Barnacle goose**   skeins often seen flying between coast and Yoxford/Peasenhall area.

**Marsh harrier**    wandering female on 29 March

**Hen harrier**       fine male late afternoon on 30 December

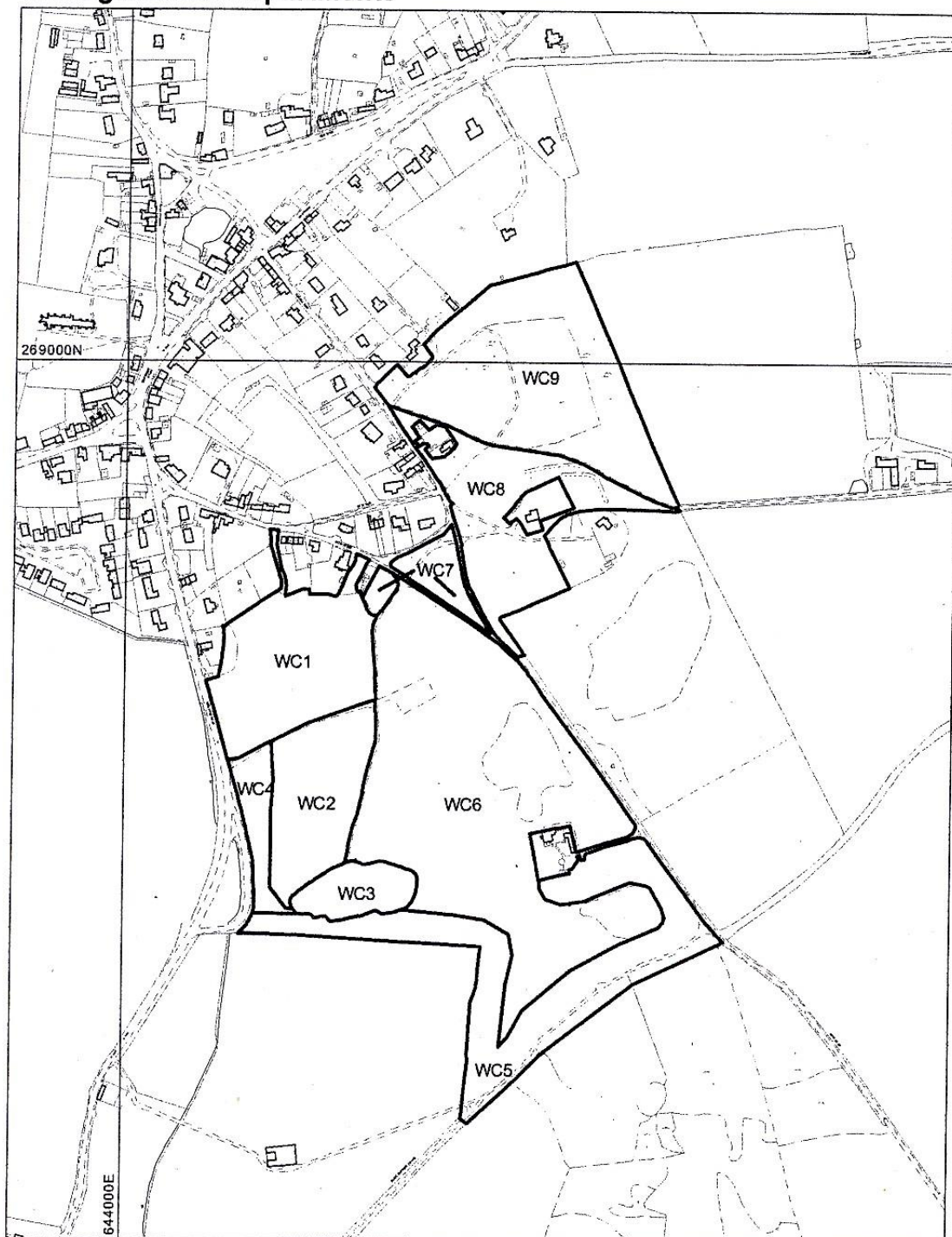
**Goshawk**          female flew across road onto Common on 4 March

<b>Kestrel</b>	despite frequent sightings at both end of the year, no established territory was Recorded in the breeding season
<b>Hobby</b>	several records in September and early October, no doubt enjoying the Multitude of dragonflies present then.
<b>Moorhen</b>	one in the lay-by ditch on 30 December
<b>Woodcock</b>	the only (?) record was two on 5 April
<b>Barn owl</b>	single flew across road onto Common on 31 December
<b>Nightjar</b>	male held territory on Common, occasionally venturing across to the north side of the Common. The nest was thought to be on neighbouring land.
<b>Skylark</b>	A lot more records this year, particularly of birds over Black Slough and the north Side of the Common. Still no breeding territories.
<b>Waxwing</b>	Probably the bird of the year. Four birds first noted on northern edge of Common On 28 December and remaining well into 2007.
<b>Fieldfare</b>	returning birds recorded in February and March, but virtually no records later in the Year
<b>Starling</b>	a late afternoon visit on 30 December, produced a flock of about 1200 birds swirling around prior to heading for roost elsewhere.
<b>Redpoll</b>	five birds in trees by old Mill Cottage in Black Slough – 5 March.



Nightingale – Westleton Common  
*Frame from video recording made on 9 May 2006*

## Management Compartments



Westleton Common

# Management, Meetings and Other Activities 2006

## Committee

Doug Ireland	Chairman
Barbara Caines	Westleton Parish Council
David Rous	Work Party leader
Penny Rous	
Hazel Leggett	
Alison Paul	Records coordinator

The committee was formed in March 2006, as a successor to the original Steering Group. The committee met on 12th April and 11th October, and organised the two meetings in the Village Hall, and the display at the Village Hall exhibition.

## Work party contributors in 2006:

John and Ann Bebbington, Renny Bell, Chris Chambers, Antony Clough, Richard Drew, Roger and Janie Driver, Mike and Ann Follows, Vanessa Fraser, Peter Hecker, Tony and Anne Ingram, Doug Ireland, Roy Jones, Hazel Leggett, Camilla Lillieskold, Jean Maskell, Alison Paul, Steve and Irene Ridley, John and Linda Robinson, David Rous, Stan and Gwen Saunders, Arthur Simpson, Ron Strowger, Roy Swindell, David Thompson, Gordon Turner, Dave Whittaker, Harvey Young.

## Working parties on the Common 2006

Led David Rous, with input from Doug Ireland, and occasional extra from Peter Smith, (Suffolk Coastal DC)

### Saturday 21st January 2006, 10-12.30

24 people, most of whom raked up the bracken on the Noddle which had been recently cut by Doug Ireland (WC1, Management Proposal area 1), while a few had a bonfire near the concrete patch of gorse that had also been recently cut (continuation of WC6, Management Proposal area 5).

[60 man hours]



Raking cut bracken *Photo Doug Ireland*

### Saturday 4th March 2006, 10-12.30

27 people, continuation of the same work plan as on 21st January. [67.5 man hours]

### Saturday 22nd April 2006, Footpath Day, 9.30-12.30

25 people cut brambles from footpaths chiefly at a) entrance from car park down to the concrete patch (WC1), b) the track down to the lay-by (WC1 and WC4), and c) on the northern part of the Common (WC9). Three sacks were also filled with rubbish.

[62.5 man hours]

### Saturday 7th October 2006, 10-12.30

19 people coppiced gorse by the path from the concrete patch towards Ralph's Mill (WC6, Management Proposal area 5). [47.5 man hours]



Gorse cutting      *Photo Alison Paul*

### **Saturday 18th November 2006, 10-12.30**

20 people raked up the bracken on the Noddle which had been recently cut by Doug Ireland, and dug out some of the roots (WC1, Management Proposal area 1). [50 man hours]

The workers were grateful for refreshments provided at work parties by Lis and Harvey Young, Jane and Roy Jones, Freda and David Thompson, and Vanessa Fraser. These were served beside the new container or at The Hollies. We thank St Peter's Church for the loan of mugs and the urn until we brought our own.

At other times during the winter period, other work, particularly gorse cutting, was done by individuals who are not free to come to work parties. The memorial seat on the Noddle, donated by a Westleton resident, was installed in early summer.

In total 325 man hours of work was achieved on the Common in 2006.

## **Other Activities**

### **Friday 24th March 2006.**

Open Social Evening in Westleton Village Hall on "Life on the Common and in the village before and during World War II". A lively evening which filled the village hall, was provided by Ronnie Strowger with Morgan Caines, Tony Sprunt and Peggy Booth, who had many stories of growing up in the village, and of the army camp on the Common. Tony's photographs and items from the museum brought by Caroline Campbell added to the atmosphere. See elsewhere in the Report for an account of the evening. There were also displays and presentations of the wildlife studies, and Michael Kirby brought a splendid model ant-lion he had made to demonstrate its feeding strategy flicking sand. The raffle organised by Penny Rous raised sufficient for us to purchase a couple of hot water flasks for refreshments on our work parties.

### **Saturday 6th May 2006.**

Dawn Chorus walk starting at 5 am, led by Doug Ireland. On a slightly overcast but bright early morning, the air was full of bird song. The 10 people were rewarded for the early start by splendid views of a nightingale in full song, this was unusual as nightingales are much more often heard but not seen.



Watching a singing Nightingale *Photo Alison Paul*

### **Westleton Friday 28th to Monday 31st July 2006. Village Hall Exhibition.**

A display of the wildlife studies and surveys, photography and management work on the Common, was set up as one of the 16 exhibitions at this Village Festival. It generated a lot of interest. Three panels of photographs by Michael Kirby featured Habitats of the Common, covering 1) the willows in the damp area, 2) heathland plants and 3) the sandy area and the colonising plants. Following on from the meeting in March, wartime aspects were shown, including a map of army sites prepared by Ronnie Strowger and some items he had discovered over the years on the Common. Illustrations of the army structures were prepared by Mike Williams.

### **Saturday 12th August 2006.**

Suffolk Naturalists Society Workshop in Westleton on Sand, led by Michael Kirby. Expert speakers gave the 20 participants a very interesting day on the geology of sand (Bob Markham), mosses (Richard Fisk), lichens (Chris Hitch), invertebrates (Adrian Knowles) and antlions (Michael Kirby). We learnt about the Westleton Beds, which are gravely deposits in this area of north-east Suffolk, and first named in 1871. We heard how lichens and mosses colonise the bare sand and contribute to the gradual build up of a soil structure and hence enable an increasing variety of plants to take hold. The sandy environment is home to many bees, ants and wasps, providing ideal moisture and temperature for them. The antlion is a specialist sand dweller, and we heard more of Michael Kirby's fascinating studies (see also his article in the 2005 Annual Report). The morning session at the Village Hall was intended to be followed by a study visit to the Common, but heavy rain prevented this. Instead, Michael Kirby, Joan Westcott and Alison Paul told the group about their study of kidney-spot ladybirds which prey on scale insects occurring on spindle trees.

### **Friday 18th August 2006. Moth night.**

Doug Ireland introduced 14 of us to the fascination of moths. He set up a moth trap, on the north area of the Common near Four Winds. The moths are attracted to the light, and drop down onto egg boxes placed beneath the lamp, where they rest. After examination, they are released. See elsewhere in the Report for the findings.



Examining the catch      *Photo Alison Paul*

### **Friday 8th September 2006.**

The Suffolk Moth Group set up moth traps on the north area of the Common (behind Four Winds). See elsewhere in the Report for their findings.

### **Friday 8th December 2006. Open Social Evening in Westleton Village Hall.**

Doug Ireland hosted the evening on “Birds of the Common”, interspersing the slides and descriptions of the birds by tape recordings of the songs. Doug’s expertise in such recordings was much enjoyed, as were the stories of obtaining some of them. Warblers, and especially nightingales can be heard very well on the Common in spring. There are hopes that some of the rarer birds that have passed through the Common may stay longer in the future. The festive spirit of the evening was rounded off by seasonal refreshments and a successful raffle.

### **Saturday 30th December 2006. Post-Christmas walk, led by Doug Ireland.**

A good turn-out of 22 people enjoyed the winter Common, and heard about birds, and the rock-holes (a water source in past years) were featured. The walk was followed by mulled wine.



Coffee Break    *Photo Alison Paul*

Refreshments were provided at meetings and walks by Ann Bebbington, Renny Bell, Barbara and Morgan Caines, Janie Driver, Tony and Anne Ingram, Alison Paul, Penny Rous.

Alison Paul.

## Bryophytes 2006

I took a walk around the common on 14th December 2006 and added a few (8 in number) bryophytes (all mosses) to the list, nothing startling, but *Ulota phyllantha* and *Orthotrichum pulchellum* are always nice to see. They used to be rather rare but are turning up quite frequently these days, probably due to lower air pollution (they are both epiphytes). I found everything that I had recorded on previous visits with one exception. A photograph is shown below of the two southern hemisphere species, the moss *Campylopus introflexus* (dark green) and liverwort *Lophocolea semiteres* growing together, (or perhaps competing) on the base of a birch tree. The former has been over here for some time but the liverwort is a comparatively recent arrival, however it is making up for lost time and spreading rapidly.

The cyanobacteria *Nostoc commune* which was so evident in the autumn of 2005 was scarce in 2006.

The full list of bryophytes recorded in 2004, 2005 and 2006 is given in Appendix 5. There are 55 mosses and 5 liverworts.

Richard Fisk  
(Suffolk Bryophyte Recorder)



Two southern hemisphere species, the moss *Campylopus introflexus* (dark green) and liverwort *Lophocolea semiteres* growing together, (or perhaps competing) on the base of a birch tree.

(Photograph Richard Fisk)

## Butterflies 2006

As usual, most observations were during dog walking before 10am and after 4pm most days.

Full counts were done on 29th July when the larger area to the south and west of Mill Street was surveyed, and 4th August when the remainder was counted. (See separate table)

Once again, the butterflies were not numerous, and were slow to appear. On 26th April a single Small Tortoiseshell and a single Peacock were seen, both in WC6 around 9.30am.

During May, several Speckled Wood, one Orange Tip, Large White and two Holly Blues were seen.

June brought the first Small Coppers, Silver-studded Blues and Meadow Browns, with single Small Heath and Painted Lady.

In early July, Gatekeepers and Graylings were around, and David Rous reported a Clouded Yellow on 27th. On this same day I had my first record of White Admiral in my garden (which is adjacent to the Common) and hoped it would fly off into the oaks on the Common, but after visiting several flowers and feeding on Buddleia alongside Peacocks, it flew off south down the Reckford Road. A single Comma was seen on 29th during the main count.

The poor weather in August meant fewer butterflies around, but September was much better with several Painted Lady and good numbers of Small Copper, Grayling and Speckled Wood, and a few Red Admiral plus many Large White.

With the wonderful weather continuing into October and many shrubs having exceptional second flushes of bloom, the butterflies were still around. Small Copper and Red Admiral were often seen as were a few Large White and Peacocks.

Only two Small Tortoiseshell were seen, on 26th April and 29th July, and I have seen very few elsewhere.

The full list of butterflies seen in 2004, 2005 and 2006 is shown in Appendix 2.

Hazel Leggett

*See 2006 Annual Report A for Hazel Leggett's Table of Butterfly Counts on 29<sup>th</sup> July and 4<sup>th</sup> August 2006.*

## Silver-studded Blues.

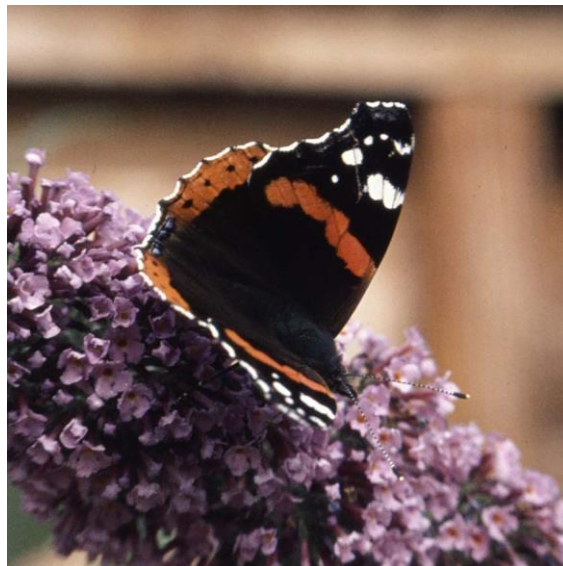
The Silver-studded Blue Butterflies were late flying this year, my first count was on the 20th of June. But as the weather warmed up the numbers picked up. The main site is doing very well with the colonies expanding into areas that have had the gorse coppiced or removed.

During the summer as it was getting hot the population exploded with a record count of 387 seen on the site ,just hope this gets better as the years progress. Then the rains came and the population started to drop.

**Table 1.        Counts of Silver-studded Blues 2006**

Date	Area 1	Area 2	Area 3	Area 4	Area 5	Area 6	Area 7	Area 8	Total
20 June	4	1	23	13	17	31	18	25	132
28 June	18	5	86	24	23	105	22	22	308
3 July	22	1	113	30	24	129	29	39	387
10 July	18	2	61	18	11	64	18	14	206

David Rous



Red Admiral    *Photo Doug Ireland*

## Vascular plants 2004-2006

Each year, frequent visits were made from March to October to record vascular plants. As in the previous two years, the areas covered in 2006 included heathland, bushy areas, paths and bare sandy areas and the concrete patch. Short, rabbit-grazed turf and the road verges (Management Area WC7) together with the area near the lay-by off the Reckford Road (Management Area WC4) are particularly good for the variety of plants occurring.

In 2006, we found 15 plants new to our list, four of which are probably “garden escapes” (Columbine, Glory-of-the-snow, Summer Snowflake and Sweet Violet). It is surprising that we have not recorded Charlock until now. The combined total number of species seen over the three years 2004 to 2006 is 236. The full list is given in Appendix 4.

My special thanks this year go to Judy Boulanger who was as usual a great help in finding flowers (before going on her extended holiday from the end of August), also to Alison Paul and others. I could not carry on without them all.

Joan Westcott

### Burnet Rose

(*Rosa pimpinellifolia*)



Known locally as “Dunwich Rose”. A low growing bush which has many small thorns. It has prolific cream coloured flowers, and black hips. It flowered particularly well in autumn 2006.

*Photograph Alison Paul*

# The Reptiles of Westleton Common 2006

Despite all our good intentions and a lot of enthusiasm, the survey for 2006 was reliant upon the observations of people in the village as neither Steve or myself saw one reptile!

A record was kept of all the sightings and these were plotted on a map (see below). It shows that there were a good number of adders on the site. A few more grass snakes were recorded but only one slow worm and one common lizard.

Irene and Steve Ridley.

## Appendix 1. Westleton Common. Birds recorded in 2006.

Cormorant	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>
Little egret	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>
Grey Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>
Mute Swan	<i>Cygnus olor</i>
Whooper Swan	<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>
Greylag Goose	<i>Anser anser</i>
Canada Goose	<i>Branta Canadensis</i>
Barnacle Goose	<i>Branta leucopsis</i>
Shelduck	<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>
Wigeon	<i>Anas penelope</i>
Teal	<i>Anas crecca</i>
Mallard	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>
Marsh Harrier	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>
Hen Harrier	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>
Goshawk	<i>Accipiter gentilis</i>
Sparrowhawk	<i>Accipiter nisus</i>
Kestrel	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>
Hobby	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>
Peregrine	<i>Falco peregrinus</i>
Red-legged Partridge	<i>Alectoris rufa</i>
Pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>
Moorhen	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>
Oystercatcher	<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>
Ringed plover	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>
Golden plover	<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>
Lapwing	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>
Snipe	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>
Woodcock	<i>Scolopax rusticola</i>
Curlew	<i>Numenius arquata</i>
Redshank	<i>Tringa totanus</i>
Green sandpiper	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>
Black-headed gull	<i>Larus ridibundus</i>
Common gull	<i>Larus canus</i>
Great Black-backed gull	<i>Larus marinus</i>
Lesser Black-backed Gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>
Herring Gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>
Stock Dove	<i>Columba oenas</i>
Woodpigeon	<i>Columba palumbus</i>
Collared dove	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>
Turtle Dove	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>
Cuckoo	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>
Barn owl	<i>Tyto alba</i>
Little owl	<i>Athene noctua</i>
Tawny owl	<i>Strix aluco</i>
Nightjar	<i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i>
Swift	<i>Apus apus</i>
Green Woodpecker	<i>Picus viridis</i>
Great Spotted Woodpecker	<i>Dendrocopus major</i>
Woodlark	<i>Lullula arborea</i>

Skylark  
Sand martin  
Swallow  
House Martin  
Tree pipit  
Meadow Pipit  
Pied Wagtail  
Waxwing  
Wren  
Dunnock  
Robin  
Nightingale  
Wheatear  
Blackbird  
Fieldfare  
Song Thrush  
Redwing  
Mistle Thrush  
Lesser Whitethroat  
Whitethroat  
Garden Warbler  
Blackcap  
Chiffchaff  
Willow Warbler  
Goldcrest  
Long-tailed Tit  
Marsh Tit  
Coal Tit  
Blue Tit  
Great Tit  
Treecreeper  
Jay  
Magpie  
Jackdaw  
Rook  
Carrion Crow  
Starling  
House sparrow  
Chaffinch  
Greenfinch  
Goldfinch  
Siskin  
Linnet  
Redpoll  
Bullfinch  
Yellowhammer

*Alauda arvensis*  
*Riparia riparia*  
*Hirundo rustica*  
*Delichon urbica*  
*Anthus trivialis*  
*Anthus pratensis*  
*Motacilla alba yarrellii*  
*Bombycilla garrulous*  
*Troglodytes troglodytes*  
*Prunella modularis*  
*Erithacus rubecula*  
*Luscinia megarhynchos*  
*Oenanthe oenanthe*  
*Turdus merula*  
*Turdus pilaris*  
*Turdus philomelos*  
*Turdus iliacus*  
*Turdus viscivorus*  
*Sylvia curruca*  
*Sylvia communis*  
*Sylvia borin*  
*Sylvia atricapilla*  
*Phylloscopus collybita*  
*Phylloscopus trochilus*  
*Regulus regulus*  
*Aegithalos caudatus*  
*Parus palustris*  
*Parus ater*  
*Parus caeruleus*  
*Parus major*  
*Certhia familiaris*  
*Garrulus glandarius*  
*Pica pica*  
*Corvus monedula*  
*Corvus frugilegus*  
*Corvus corone*  
*Sturnus vulgaris*  
*Passer domesticus*  
*Fringilla coelebs*  
*Carduelis chloris*  
*Carduelis carduelis*  
*Carduelis spinus*  
*Carduelis cannabina*  
*Carduelis flammea*  
*Pyrrhula pyrrhula*  
*Emberiza citronella*

Richard Drew and Doug Ireland

## Appendix 1. Breeding bird territories 2006

	2004	2005	2006
Sparrowhawk	1	1	1
Kestrel	1	0	0
Red-legged Partridge	1	0	1
Pheasant	1	1	1
Collared Dove	2	2	2
Turtle Dove	2	3	2
Cuckoo	1	1	1
Tawny Owl		1	1
Nightjar	1	1	1
Swift	1	0	0
Green Woodpecker	2	2	2
Great Spotted Woodpecker	1	2	1
Skylark	1	1	1
Woodlark	2	2	1
Pied Wagtail	1	1	1
Wren	15	16	13
Dunnock	6	10	5
Robin	12	12	10
Nightingale	8	9	10
Blackbird	8	9	9
Song Thrush	2	4	3
Mistle Thrush	2	1	1
Lesser Whitethroat	2	4	2
Whitethroat	3	4	4
Blackcap	3	4	4
Garden Warbler	4	5	5
Willow Warbler	5	4	3
Chiffchaff	9	7	7
Goldcrest	2	1	1
Blue Tit	12	11	8
Great Tit	5	9	8
Coal Tit	1	2	2
Long Tailed Tit	3	2	2
Jay	1	1	1
Magpie	4	2	2
Chaffinch	19	20	19
Greenfinch	12	7	12
Goldfinch	1	1	1
Bullfinch	2	3	3
Linnet	4	5	5
Yellowhammer	7	6	6
Woodpigeon - <i>Bred but not included in Survey</i>			

## Appendix 2. Butterflies, Moths and Dragonflies 2004-2006

### Butterflies

		2004	2005	2006
Skipper			✓	
Clouded Yellow	<i>Colias croceus</i>			✓
Large White	<i>Pieris brassicae</i>	✓	✓	✓
Small White	<i>Pieris rapae</i>	✓	✓	
Green-veined White	<i>Pieris napi</i>	✓	✓	✓
Orange Tip	<i>Anthocharis cardamines</i>	✓	✓	✓
Green Hairstreak	<i>Callophrys rubi</i>	✓		
Purple Haistreak	<i>Quercusia quercus</i>		✓	
Small Copper	<i>Lycaena phlaeas</i>	✓	✓	✓
Silver-studded Blue	<i>Plebejus argus</i>	✓	✓	✓
Common Blue	<i>Polyommatus icarus</i>	✓	✓	
Holly Blue	<i>Celastrina argiolus</i>	✓	✓	✓
Red Admiral	<i>Vanessa atalanta</i>	✓	✓	✓
Painted Lady	<i>Cynthia cardui</i>	✓	✓	✓
Small Tortoiseshell	<i>Aglais urticae</i>	✓	✓	✓
Peacock	<i>Inachis io</i>	✓	✓	✓
Comma	<i>Polygonia c-album</i>	✓	✓	✓
Speckled Wood	<i>Pararge aegeria</i>	✓	✓	✓
Wall	<i>Lasiommata megera</i>	✓		
Grayling	<i>Hipparchia semele</i>	✓	✓	✓
Gatekeeper	<i>Maniola tithonus</i>	✓	✓	✓
Meadow Brown	<i>Maniola jurtina</i>	✓	✓	✓
Small Heath	<i>Coenonympha pamphilus</i>	✓	✓	✓
Ringlet	<i>Aphantopus hyperantus</i>	✓	✓	✓

### Dragonflies

Broad-bodied Chaser	<i>Libellula depressa</i>	✓		
Four-spotted Chaser	<i>Libellula quadrimaculata</i>	✓		
Emperor Dragonfly	<i>Anax imperator</i>	✓	✓	
Azure Damselfly	<i>Coenagrion puella</i>	✓		
Common Darter	<i>Sympetrum striolatum</i>	✓		

## Moths.

Code	Scientific name	Vernacular	2004	2005	2006
232	<i>Monopis monachella</i>				✓
969	<i>Pandemis corylana</i>	Chequered Fruit-tree Tortrix			✓
1175	<i>Eplibema uddmanniana</i>				✓
1309	<i>Agriphila geniculea</i>				✓
1340	<i>Eudonia trunicolella</i>				✓
1362	<i>Pyrausta purpuralis</i>				✓
1405	<i>Pleuroptya ruralis</i>	Mother of Pearl			✓
1634	<i>Malacosoma neustria</i>	Lackey	✓		
1707	<i>Idaea seriata</i>	Small Dusty Wave			✓
1742	<i>Campptogramma bilineata</i>	Yellow Shell			✓
1776	<i>Colostygia pectinataria</i>	Green Carpet			✓
1862	<i>Gymnoscelis rufifasciata</i>	Double-striped Pug			✓
1906	<i>Opisthograptis luteolata</i>	Brimstone Moth			✓
1961	<i>Campaea margaritata</i>	Light Emerald			✓
1983	<i>Hemaris fuciformis</i>	Broad-bordered Bee Hawk Moth		✓	
1984	<i>Macroglossum stellatarum</i>	Hummingbird Hawk Moth		✓	✓
2069	<i>Tyria jacobaeae</i>	Cinnabar		✓	✓
2102	<i>Ochropleura plecta</i>	Flame Shoulder			✓
2107	<i>Noctua pronuba</i>	Large Yellow Underwing			✓
2109	<i>Noctua comes</i>	Lesser Yellow Underwing			✓
2110	<i>Noctua fimbriata</i>	Broad-bordered Yellow Underwing			✓
2111	<i>Noctua janthe</i>	Lesser Broad-bordered Yellow Underwing			✓
2126	<i>Xestia c-nigrum</i>	Setaceous Hebrew Character			✓
2134	<i>Xestia xanthographa</i>	Square-spot Rustic			✓
2145	<i>Discestra trifolii</i>	Nutmeg			✓
2178	<i>Tholera decimalis</i>	Feathered Gothic			✓
2199	<i>Mythimna pallens</i>	Common Wainscot			✓
2278	<i>Acronicta megacephala</i>	Poplar Grey			✓
2297	<i>Amphipyra pyramidea</i>	Copper Underwing			✓
2353	<i>Luperina testacea</i>	Flounced Rustic			✓
2384	<i>Hoplodrina ambigua</i>	Vine's Rustic			✓
2441	<i>Autographa gamma</i>	Silver Y	✓	✓	✓
2450	<i>Abrostola triparita</i>	Spectacle			✓

## Appendix 3. Amphibians, reptiles and mammals 2004-2006

		2004	2005	2006
<b>Amphibians</b>				
Frog	<i>Rana temporaria</i>	✓		
Common Toad	<i>Bufo bufo</i>			✓
<b>Reptiles</b>				
Grass Snake	<i>Natrix natrix</i>	✓	✓	✓
Adder	<i>Viperus berus</i>	✓	✓	✓
Common Lizard	<i>Licerta vivipara</i>	✓	✓	✓
Slow Worm	<i>Anguis fragilis</i>	✓	✓	
<b>Mammals</b>				
Red Deer	<i>Cervus elaphus</i>	✓	✓	✓
Muntjac Deer	<i>Muntiacus reevesi</i>	✓	✓	✓
Fox	<i>Vulpia vulpia</i>	✓		✓
Rabbit	<i>Orytolagus cuniculus</i>	✓	✓	✓
Stoat	<i>Mustella erminea</i>	✓	✓	
Weasel	<i>Mustela nivalis</i>		✓	
Mole	<i>Talpa europaea</i>		✓	✓
Grey Squirrel	<i>Neosciurus carolinensis</i>	✓	✓	✓
Shrew			✓	

David Rous, Hazel Leggett, Alison Paul, Chris Chambers

## Appendix 4. Vascular plants 2004-2006

\* Species added in 2006

<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>		Sycamore
<i>Achillea millefolium</i>		Yarrow
<i>Agrostis canina</i>	*	Velvet Bent
<i>Agrostis capillaris</i>		Common Bent
<i>Agrostis stolonifera</i>		Creeping Bent
<i>Agrostis vinealis</i>		Brown Bent
<i>Aira praecox</i>		Early Hair-grass
<i>Alliaria petiolata</i>		Garlic Mustard
<i>Amsinckia micrantha</i>		Common Fiddleneck
<i>Anacamptis pyramidalis</i>		Pyramidal Orchid
<i>Anagallis arvensis</i>		Scarlet Pimpernel
<i>Anchusa arvensis</i>		Bugloss
<i>Anisantha sterilis</i>		Barren Brome
<i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i>		Sweet Vernal Grass
<i>Anthriscus caucalis</i>		Bur Parsley (Bur Chervil)
<i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>		Cow Parsley
<i>Aphanes australis</i>		Slender Parsley-piert
<i>Aquilegia vulgaris</i>	*	Columbine
<i>Arabidopsis thaliana</i>		Thale Cress
<i>Arctium minus</i>		Lesser Burdock
<i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i>		False Oat-grass
<i>Artemisia vulgaris</i>		Mugwort
<i>Arum italicum</i>		Italian Lords-and-Ladies
<i>Arum maculatum</i>		Lords-and-Ladies
<i>Ballota nigra</i>		Black Horehound
<i>Bellis perennis</i>		Daisy
<i>Betula pendula</i>		Silver Birch
<i>Bromus hordeaceus</i> ssp. <i>hordeaceus</i>		Soft Brome
<i>Bryonia dioica</i>		White Bryony
<i>Calluna vulgaris</i>		Ling
<i>Capsella bursa-pastoris</i>		Shepherd's Purse
<i>Cardamine flexuosa</i>	*	Wavy Bittercress
<i>Cardamine hirsuta</i>		Hairy Bittercress
<i>Carduus nutans</i>		Musk Thistle
<i>Carduus tenuiflorus</i>		Slender Thistle (Seaside Thistle)
<i>Carex arenaria</i>		Sand Sedge
<i>Carex pilulifera</i>		Pill Sedge
<i>Castanea sativa</i>		Sweet Chestnut
<i>Centaureum erythraea</i>		Common Centaury
<i>Cerastium fontanum</i> ssp. <i>vulgare</i>		Common Mouse-ear
<i>Cerastium glomeratum</i>		Sticky Mouse-ear
<i>Cerastium semidecandrum</i>		Little Mouse-ear
<i>Ceratocarpus claviculata</i>		Climbing Corydalis
<i>Chaerophyllum temulentum</i>		Rough Chervil
<i>Chamerion angustifolium</i>		Rosebay Willowherb
<i>Chenopodium album</i>		Fat-hen
<i>Chionodoxa forbesii</i>	*	Glory-of-the-snow
<i>Cirsium arvense</i>		Creeping Thistle
<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>		Spear Thistle
<i>Claytonia perfoliata</i>		Spring Beauty
<i>Claytonia sibirica</i>		Pink Purslane

*Clinopodium vulgare*  
*Conium maculatum*  
*Consolida ajacis*  
*Convolvulus arvensis*  
*Conyza canadensis*  
*Crassula tillaea*  
*Crataegus monogyna*  
*Crepis capillaris*  
*Crepis vesicaria*  
*Cynoglossum officinale*  
*Cytisus scoparius*  
*Dactylis glomerata*  
*Digitalis purpurea*  
*Dryopteris dilatata*  
*Elytrigia repens*  
*Erica cinerea*  
*Erodium cicutarium*  
*Erophila verna*  
*Euphorbia lathyris*  
*Euphorbia peplus*  
*Fallopia baldschuanica*  
*Fallopia japonica*  
*Festuca ovina* agg.  
*Festuca rubra* agg.  
*Filago vulgaris*  
*Foeniculum vulgare*  
*Fraxinus excelsior*  
*Galanthus nivalis*  
*Galium aparine*  
*Galium mollugo*  
*Galium saxatile*  
*Geranium dissectum*  
*Geranium molle*  
*Geranium pyrenaicum*  
  
*Geranium robertianum*  
*Geum urbanum*  
*Glechoma hederacea*  
*Hedera helix*  
*Heracleum sphondylium*  
*Hesperis matronalis*  
*Holcus lanatus*  
*Hordium murinum*  
*Humulus lupulus*  
*Hyacinthoides non-scripta*  
*Hypericum perforatum*  
*Hypochaeris radicata*  
*Ilex aquifolium*  
*Juncus bufonius*  
*Juncus effusus*  
*Lamium album*  
*Lamium purpureum*  
*Lapsana communis*  
*Leontodon autumnalis*  
*Leucanthemum vulgare*

Wild Basil  
Hemlock  
Larkspur  
Field Bindweed  
Canadian Fleabane  
Mossy Stonecrop  
Hawthorn  
Smooth Hawk's-beard  
Beaked Hawk's-beard  
Hound's-tongue  
Broom  
Cock's-foot  
Foxglove  
Broad Buckler-fern  
Couch Grass  
Bell Heather  
Common Stork's-bill  
Common Whitlowgrass  
Caper Spurge  
Petty Spurge  
Russian-vine  
Japanese Knotweed  
Sheep's Fescue  
Red Fescue  
Common Cudweed  
Fennel  
Ash  
Snowdrop  
Cleavers  
Hedge Bedstraw  
Heath Bedstraw  
Cut-leaved Crane's-bill  
Dove's-foot Crane's-bill  
Hedgerow Crane's-bill (Pyrenean Crane's-bill.)  
Herb Robert  
Wood Avens (Herb Bennet)  
Ground-ivy  
Ivy  
Hogweed  
Dame's Violet  
Yorkshire Fog  
Wall Barley  
Hop  
Bluebell  
Perforate St. John's-wort  
Cat's-ear  
Holly  
Toad Rush  
Soft Rush  
White Dead-nettle  
Red Dead-nettle  
Nipplewort  
Autumn Hawkbit  
Ox-eye Daisy

<i>Leucojum aestrum</i>	*	Summer Snowflake
<i>Ligustrum vulgare</i>		Wild Privet
<i>Linaria vulgaris</i>		Common Toadflax
<i>Lolium perenne</i>	*	Perennial Rye-grass
<i>Lonicera periclymenum</i>		Honeysuckle
<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>		Common Bird's-foot-trefoil
<i>Lunaria annua</i>		Honesty
<i>Luzula campestris</i>	*	Field Woodrush (Good Friday Grass)
<i>Malus domestica</i>		Apple
<i>Malva moschata</i>		Musk Mallow
<i>Malva sylvestris</i>		Common Mallow
<i>Matricaria discoidea</i>		Pineapple-weed
<i>Medicago arabica</i>		Spotted Medick
<i>Melissa officinalis</i>		Balm
<i>Molinia caerulea</i>		Purple Moor-grass
<i>Montia fontana</i>		Blinks
<i>Myosotis arvensis</i>		Field Forgetmenot
<i>Myosotis discolor</i>		Changing Forgetmenot
<i>Myosotis ramosissima</i>		Early Forgetmenot
<i>Narcissus</i> sp.		Daffodil
<i>Odontites verna</i> ssp. <i>serotinus</i>		Red Bartsia
<i>Oenothera glazioviana</i>		Large-flowered Evening-primrose
<i>Ophrys apifera</i>	*	Bee Orchid
<i>Ornithogallum angustifolium</i>		Star-of-Bethlehem
<i>Ornithops perpusillus</i>	*	Birds'-foot
<i>Oxalis articulata</i>		Pink-sorrel
<i>Papaver rhoeas</i>		Common Poppy
<i>Papaver somniferum</i>		Opium Poppy
<i>Parietaria judaica</i>		Pellitory-of-the-wall
<i>Pentaglottis sempervirens</i>		Green Alkanet
<i>Phleum bertolinii</i>		Small Cat's-tail
<i>Picris echioides</i>		Bristly Ox-tongue
<i>Pilosella officinarum</i>		Mouse-ear Hawkweed
<i>Plantago coronopus</i>		Buck's-horn Plantain
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>		Ribwort Plantain
<i>Plantago major</i>		Rat's-tail Plantain
<i>Poa nemoralis</i>		Wood Meadow-grass
<i>Poa pratensis</i>		Smooth Meadow-grass
<i>Polypodium vulgare</i>		Polypody
<i>Potentilla argentea</i>		Hoary Cinquefoil
<i>Potentilla reptans</i>		Creeping Cinquefoil
<i>Potentilla sterilis</i>	*	Barren Strawberry
<i>Primula vulgaris</i>		Primrose
<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>		Selfheal
<i>Prunus spinosa</i>		Blackthorn
<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>		Bracken
<i>Pulicaria dysenterica</i>		Common Fleabane
<i>Quercus robur</i>		Pedunculate Oak
<i>Ranunculus bulbosus</i>		Bulbous Buttercup
<i>Ranunculus ficaria</i>		Lesser Celandine
<i>Ranunculus repens</i>		Creeping Buttercup
<i>Ranunculus sardous</i>		Hairy Buttercup
<i>Raphanus raphanistrum</i>		Wild Radish
<i>Reseda luteola</i>		Weld
<i>Ribes rubrum</i>		Red Currant

<i>Ribes sanguineum</i>		Flowering Currant
<i>Rosa canina</i>		Dog Rose
<i>Rosa pimpinellifolia</i>		Burnet Rose ("Dunwich Rose" locally)
<i>Rosa rubiginosa</i>	*	Sweet-briar (Eglantine)
<i>Rubus caesius</i>		Dewberry
<i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg.		Bramble
<i>Rumex acetosa</i>		Common Sorrel
<i>Rumex acetosella</i>		Sheep's-sorrel
<i>Rumex crispus</i>		Curled Dock
<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>		Broad-leaved Dock
<i>Sagina procumbens</i>		Procumbent Pearlwort
<i>Sagina subulata</i>		Heath Pearlwort
<i>Salix caprea</i>	*	Goat Willow
<i>Salix cinerea</i> ssp. <i>cinerea</i>		Grey Willow
<i>Salvia verbenaca</i>		Wild Clary
<i>Sambucus nigra</i>		Elder
<i>Scrophularia nodosa</i>		Common Figwort
<i>Sedum acre</i>		Biting Stonecrop
<i>Sedum album</i>		White Stonecrop
<i>Senecio jacobaea</i>		Common Ragwort
<i>Senecio sylvaticus</i>		Heath Groundsel
<i>Senecio vulgaris</i>		Groundsel
<i>Silene latifolia</i>		White Campion
<i>Silene dioica</i>		Red Campion
<i>Sinapsis arvensis</i>	*	Charlock
<i>Sisymbrium officinale</i>		Hedge Mustard
<i>Smyrniolum olusatrum</i>		Alexanders
<i>Solanum nigrum</i>		Black Nightshade
<i>Sonchus asper</i>		Prickly Sow-thistle
<i>Sonchus oleraceus</i>		Smooth Sow-thistle
<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>		Rowan
<i>Sparganium angustifolium</i>		Sand Spurrey
<i>Stellaria holostea</i>		Greater Stitchwort
<i>Stellaria media</i>		Common Chickweed
<i>Symphytum orientale</i>		White Comfrey
<i>Symphytum x uplandicum</i>		Russian Comfrey
<i>Tanacetum parthenium</i>		Feverfew
<i>Tanacetum vulgare</i>		Tansy
<i>Taraxacum officinale</i> agg.		Dandelion
<i>Taraxacum</i> Sect. <i>Erythrosperma</i>		Lesser Dandelion
<i>Teesdalia nudicaulis</i>		Shepherd's Cress
<i>Teucrium scorodonium</i>		Wood Sage
<i>Torilis japonica</i>		Upright Hedge-parsley
<i>Trifolium campestre</i>		Hop Trefoil
<i>Trifolium dubium</i>		Lesser Trefoil
<i>Trifolium glomeratum</i>		Clustered Clover
<i>Trifolium micranthum</i>		Slender Trefoil
<i>Trifolium ornithopodioides</i>		Bird's-foot Clover (Fenugreek)
<i>Trifolium repens</i>		White Clover
<i>Trifolium striatum</i>	*	Knotted Clover
<i>Trifolium subterraneum</i>		Subterranean Clover
<i>Trifolium suffocatum</i>		Suffocated Clover
<i>Tripleurospermum inodorum</i>		Scentless Mayweed
<i>Ulex europaeus</i>		Gorse
<i>Ulex gallii</i>		Western Gorse

*Ulmus procera*  
*Umbilicus rupestris*  
*Urtica dioica*  
*Urtica urens*  
*Verbascum nigrum*  
*Verbascum thapsus*  
*Verbascum x semialbum (V.thapsus x*  
*nigrum)*  
*Verbascum virgatum*  
*Veronica arvensis*  
*Veronica chamaedrys*  
*Veronica hederifolia* ssp. *lucorum*  
*Veronica persica*  
*Veronica serpyllifolia*  
*Vicia hirsuta*  
*Vicia sativa* ssp. *nigra*  
*Vicia sativa* ssp. *segetalis*  
*Vinca major*  
*Viola arvensis*  
*Viola odorata*  
*Viola riviniana*  
*Vulpia bromoides*

English Elm  
 Navelwort (Wall Pennywort)  
 Stinging Nettle  
 Small Nettle  
 Dark Mullein  
 Great Mullein  
 Hybrid Mullein

Twiggy Mullein  
 Wall Speedwell  
 Germander Speedwell  
 Ivy-leaved Speedwell  
 Common Field-speedwell  
 Thyme-leaved Speedwell  
 Hairy Tare  
 Common Vetch ssp.  
 Common Vetch ssp.  
 Greater Periwinkle  
 Field Pansy  
 Sweet Violet  
 Common Dog-violet  
 Squirrel-tailed Fescue

\*

Joan Westcott

Total number of species = 236

## Appendix 5. Bryophytes and cyanobacteria 2004-2006

\* Species added in 2006

\*\* Species recorded on willows in the damp 'hollow', added in 2006

### Mosses

*Amblystegium serpens*  
*Aulacomnium androgynum*  
*Barbula convoluta*  
*Barbula unguiculata*  
*Brachythecium albicans*  
*Brachythecium rutabulum*  
*Brachythecium velutinum* \*  
*Bryoerythrophyllum recurvirostrum*  
*Bryum argenteum*  
*Byrum bicolor*  
*Byrum capillare*  
*Byrum ruderae* \*  
*Caliergonella cuspidata*  
*Campylopus introflexus*  
*Campylopus pyriformis*  
*Ceratodon purpureus*  
*Dicranella heteromalla*  
*Dicranoweisia cirrata*  
*Dicranum majus*  
*Dicranum scoparium*  
*Didymodon fallax*  
*Didymodon insulanus* \*  
*Eurhynchium praelongum*  
*Fissidens taxifolius* \*  
*Funaria hygrometrica*  
*Grimmia pulvinata*  
*Hypnum cupressiforme*  
*Hypnum jutlandicum*  
*Hypnum lacunosum*  
*Hypnum resupinatum* \*  
*Mnium hornum*  
*Orthodontium lineare*  
*Orthotrichum affine*  
*Orthotrichum anomalum*  
*Orthotrichum diaphanum*  
*Orthotrichum lyellii*  
*Orthotrichum pulchellum* \*\*  
*Plagiothecium curvifolium*  
*Plagiothecium nemorale*  
*Plagiothecium undulatum*  
*Pleurozium schreberi*  
*Pohlia nutans*  
*Polytrichum formosum*  
*Polytrichum juniperinum*  
*Polytrichum piliferum*  
*Pseudocrossidium hornschuchianum*  
*Rhynchostegium confertum*

### Mosses (continued)

*Rhytidiadelphus squarrosus*  
*Scleropodium purum*  
*Syntrichia intermedia*  
*Syntrichia ruraliformis* \*  
*Syntrichia ruralis*

*Tortula muralis*  
*Ulota bruchii*  
*Ulota phyllantha* \*\*

### **Liverworts**

*Cephaloziella divaricata*  
*Frullania dilatata*  
*Lophocolea bidentata*  
*Lophocolea heterophylla*  
*Lophocolea semiteres*

### **Cyanobacteria (Blue-green algae)**

*Nostoc commune*

Richard Fisk

## Appendix 6. Fungi and lichens recorded in 2004-2006

		2004	2005	2006
<b>Fungi</b>				
<i>Amanita muscaria</i>	Fly agaric	✓	✓	
<i>Clavaria argillacea</i>	Fairy clubs	✓	✓	
<i>Clitocybe spp</i>	(Toadstool)	✓	✓	
<i>Dacromyces deliquesens</i>				✓
<i>Flammulina velutipes</i>	Velvet foot	✓		
<i>Hypholoma fasciulare</i>	Sulphur tuft		✓	
<i>Lycoperdon spp</i>	(Puffballs)		✓	
<i>Macrolepiota procera</i>	Parasol mushroom		✓	
<i>Oudemansiella radicata</i>				✓
<i>Peziza rutilans</i>	Cup fungus (ascomycete)			✓
<i>Phallus impudicus</i>	Stinkhorn	✓	✓	
<i>Polypore spp</i>	(Bracket fungus)		✓	
<i>Trametes cinnibarina</i>	(Bracket fungus)			✓
<i>Trametes spp</i>	(Bracket fungus)	✓		
<i>Tremella mesenterica</i>	Stagshorn (on gorse)			✓
<i>Xylaria hypoxylon</i>	orange, (on gorse)			✓
<b>Lichens</b>				
<i>Cladonia spp</i>		✓	✓	
<i>Cladonia aculeata</i>				✓
<i>Cladonia cerviconis</i>				✓
<i>Cladonia diversa</i>				✓
<i>Cladonia fimbriata</i>				✓
<i>Cladonia furcata</i>				✓
<i>Cladonia portentosa</i>				✓
<i>Cladonia ramulosa</i>				✓
<i>Peltigera lactifolia</i>				✓
<i>Xanthora parietina</i>	An orange lichen		✓	

Michael Kirby, Hazel Leggett, Chris Hitch (Suffolk Lichens Recorder)

## Appendix 7. Some insects and mites recorded in 2004-2006

		2004	2005	2006
<b>Antlions</b>				
<i>Euroleon nostras</i>	Antlion	✓	✓	✓
<b>Mites</b>				
<i>Tetranychus lintearius</i>	Gorse mite	✓	✓	✓
<b>Willow leaf galls caused by:</b>				
<i>Aceria tetanothrix</i>	A gall mite	✓		✓
<i>Pontania sp.</i>	A sawfly	✓		✓
<b>Oak galls caused by gall wasps:</b>				
<i>Andricus fecundator</i>	Artichoke gall	✓	✓	✓
<i>Andricus kollari</i>	Marble gall	✓	✓	✓
<i>Andricus lignicola</i>	Cola-nut gall	✓	✓	✓
<i>Andricus quercusalicis</i>	Knopper gall	✓	✓	✓
<i>Biorhiza pallida</i>	Oak apple gall	✓		✓
<i>Cynips divisa</i>	Oak pea gall			✓
<i>Cynips quercusfolii</i>	Cherry gall	✓		✓
<i>Neuroterus albipes</i>	Smooth spangle gall	✓		✓
<i>Neuroterus numismalis</i>	Silk button gall	✓		✓
<i>Neuroterus quercusbaccarum</i>	Spangle gall	✓	✓	✓
<b>Leaf gall caused by:</b>				
<i>Trioza remota</i>	A bug	✓		✓
<b>Beetles and Bugs</b>				
<i>Coccinella 7-punctata</i>	7-spot ladybird	✓	✓	✓
<i>Exochomus 4-pustulatus</i>	Pine ladybird		✓	
<i>Stethorus punctillum</i>	A black ladybird (on gorse)	✓	✓	✓
<i>Typhaeus typhoes</i>	Minotaur beetle	✓	✓	✓
<i>Carabus violaceus</i>	Violet ground beetle		✓	
<i>Piezodorus lituratus</i>	Gorse sheildbug	✓	✓	✓

### Uncommon Invertebrate Species seen in 2004 (Nigel St John Cuming)

*Philanthus triangulum*. (F). Bee-wolf. Status: Formally still regarded as RDB2. but in the light of it's expansion of range this status is under revision.

*Cerceris arenaria*. L. Status: Locally common.

*Dasygaster altercator*. (Harris). Status: Nb. A mining bee.

*Ectobius panzeri*. Step. Lesser Cockroach. Status: Nb.

*Physocephala rufipes*. (F). Conopid fly. Status: Local.

*Porcinolus murinus*. (F). A Pill beetle. Status: Nb.

*Aphanus rolandri*. (L). A ground bug. Status: Na. (seen also in 2005)

## The 'Cleeves' Railway Carriage



The Cleeves Railway Carriage, October 2006.

*Photo Tony Ingram*

When Alison was kind enough in late 2005 to ask us to scribe a brief note upon our railway carriage for the Westleton Common Annual Report, we anticipated more than enough time to delve into its history. But here we are, after over one year at 'The Cleeves', and still 'newcomers' with few comforts and little barely started, let alone the investigations that such a subject deserves!

Our earliest taste of the history of the Carriage came with an opportune encounter with Ronnie Strowger on the Noddle when we first chanced upon, and became enchanted with The Cleeves. Ronnie recounted (amongst many things about The Common) how in 'recent' times, his grandfather had lived nearby around the 1880's.

When at last we gained access, we found it fairly intact as Ronnie had described, with a metal bed in the corner, camouflage helmet suspended on the wall and some of Gillian Houghton's artifacts from her work with the Girl Guides including labeled timber species and a large canvas bell-tent.

The Carriage originally had eight doors and apparently 3 compartments (a double in the centre)...Its particular characteristics include seven paneled ends, applied beading and curved moulded ventilators over the doors.

It is now over-covered on the external face with corrugated iron with a more than liberal coating of creosote and some rather unoriginal if quaint fenestration. However, the inside face remains remarkably original, apparently without over-painting. In fact most of the mouldings remain and doors still open, and with much of the ironmongery including T-door handles and locks intact (please do let us know if you would like to investigate!).



Two views of “exterior” of carriage  
*Photos Tony Ingram*

The earliest photos of such carriages that we have found stem from the early C20, by which time the rolling stock was already obsolete. Two almost identical redundant, grounded carriages were used as booking office and facilities at Thorpeness Halt on the Aldeburgh line. Opened on 29 July 1914, the station was planned to serve the newly established resort (itself a rather up market precursor to the holiday camp). But of course the War put paid to further development, and it seems that the carriages remained there for some years.

....However a more detailed study of period photographs shows extremely subtle differences between these and our carriage; in particular eight ventilator openings over each window rather than seven. And one of the Thorpeness carriages was fitted apparently with a mail-catching apparatus, which the Cleeve carriage certainly does not have evidence of.

Further help from a variety of sources finally seems to have pinned the origins of the carriage to a Worsdell Type 3B (although it could be a Johnson design from around 1867). The Worsdell Type 3B's were constructed between 1882 and 1884, mostly by private contractors (although possibly one of the first to follow the new policy of building at Stratford) for the Great Eastern Railway. Whilst mostly 31ft 6in in length for first, second and first/second class composites, a range of variants were built ranging from a lowly 34ft third class carriage to the well known Wisbech and Upwell tramcars.

We then chanced upon a photo in the wonderful catalogue ‘Suffolks Railways, a portrait in old picture postcards’ by Dennis Cross ‘taken somewhere in East Anglia’ showing two virtually identical carriages lain parallel, with happy workers in the throes of creating a house from them. These appear from the photo to be identical to that at the Cleeves. Dennis goes on to outline the history of the mid Suffolk Railway which was built between 1901 and 1904 between Haughley and Laxfield. Affectionately known as ‘The Middy’, the line was never especially sound financially (in fact part of it closed a mere eight years after opening). The operating section was taken over by the LNER in 1924, and its busiest period was during construction of wartime airfields at Mendlesham and Horfield. Whilst little now exists of the line, we commend activities resulting in the restoration of a short part of the line at Wetheringsett (see [www.mslr.org.uk](http://www.mslr.org.uk) and do pay a visit). Records seem to suggest that the original coaches were ex- Metropolitan Railway, and having been made redundant in the metropolis found their way to the ‘Middy’.

Steam locomotives were used to pull carriages on the world's first underground railway, the Metropolitan, which opened in 1863 between Paddington and Farringdon. As the Metropolitan and Metropolitan District Railways developed, completing the Inner Circle and building new extensions, they continued to use steam power.

The engines were specially adapted to reduce the amount of smoke and steam, and shafts or vents to the surface aided ventilation. However, the pollution of the air for staff and passengers always remained a

problem for steam operation underground, perhaps reflected in the sophisticated design of the carriage ventilators.

It was only with the advent of the City and South London Railway in 1890, the first part of today's Northern line, that the use of electric traction was successful. The new deep level tube railways were all electric, and inevitably the Circle, District and Metropolitan railways followed suit. The Inner Circle and District lines were fully electrified by 1906, powered by Lots Road power station in Chelsea, which also supplied power to the deep level tubes.

So the carriage seems to be over one hundred and twenty years old, originating on what is now the Metropolitan Line. Which is ironic given the fact that Tony is hopefully shortly retiring from his commute to his practice on the very same line.

Anne and Tony Ingram, The Cleeves, Autumn 2006.

With particular thanks to Alison, Ronnie, London Underground, Dennis Cross, Bob at Woodbridge, the 'Middy' and all who have made us so welcome in this perfect village.