



LEEK WOOTTON PARISH BIODIVERSITY GROUP



INTRODUCTION:

Two projects have already resulted from the arrival of the Parish BAP, a document produced by the Local Biodiversity Action Plan Partnership, which was sent to the Parish Councils in February 2007. Two further projects are planned.

HOW WE WENT ABOUT IT:

- A group of 3 people (now called the **Co-ordination Team**) responded to the Parish BAP and aroused village interest in it by word of mouth and articles in the Parish Magazine.
- The aims of the **Co-ordination Team** are:
 - to continue to generate enthusiasm for and to provide guidance on the preparation of their **own Parish Biodiversity Action Plan**
 - to liaise with the Local Biodiversity Action Plan
 - to get expert help and to get money
- A **Steering Group** of 6 (including the **Co-ordination Team**) was formed to identify projects based on the Parish BAP; 5 projects were identified
 - The **Steering Group** will be responsible for managing the projects with the help of volunteers and for administering any funds
- Updates on progress are reported in the **Parish magazine** and a **village meeting** will take place when more is known about the projects and what funds are available.

WHAT WE ACHIEVED:

Ongoing projects:

- *The Lunches Project* (Police HQ woodland) has the support of police and local interest to open up the wood, possibly as a Local Nature Reserve. We need to find out about grants and see if we can get the Warwickshire Wildlife Trust involved.
- *Gaveston's Cross* – a project being led by the Parish Council on privately owned land. We need advice on management as a BAP site and on opening up a route to the monument to Piers Gaveston for guided walks.

Planned:

- *The Spinney* – a small copse of shared land at the rear of houses, now protected from excessive tidying but advice on wild life management is sought by the owners.
- *Churchyard* – we are considering proposing a corner for wildlife with school involvement, perhaps under the Eco-Schools scheme.

In the future?:

- *A natural pond* next to a footpath needs restoration.

WHAT THE BENEFITS TO BIODIVERSITY WILL BE:

- A bird survey in Police HQ woodland found kingfisher, tawny owl and lesser spotted woodpecker
- Gaveston's Wood has bluebells and badgers.
- The spinney was surveyed for flora and fauna in 2008 and will be again in 2009. There are anecdotal records of tawny owls and dragonflies.

ADVICE AND CONTACT:

- **Charles Stubbs** - former parish councillor – 07753 600481
- **Mark Smith** - advisor to scheme, undertaking a survey for each project and then revisiting the projects to assess progress with increasing biodiversity – email: mark.smith36@ntlworld.com
- **Sandra Whitlock** - acts as contact for residents of Leek Wootton and Guy's Cliffe parish who wish to play an active part in the Parish BAP scheme – email: s.whitlock@warwick.ac.uk