



RINGWOOD NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Moyles Court Walk

Date: 6th December 2018
 Weather: Overcast, clearing to sunny spells 10 degrees C
 Walk Leaders: Jayne O'Reilly and Marsha Partridge
 Attendees: 17

Our walk took place after a very wet week and heavy rain the night before. The walk started from the car parking place opposite Moyles Court School. We continued along the road ahead with the School on our left, turning right before reaching the riding stables onto the Avon Valley Path (AVP) which leads uphill through horse paddocks towards the tree line of Newlands Plantation, turning left at the top. After following the AVP a short way we reached Ibsley Common, walking across the heathland plateau to Whitefield Plantation, a mix of Scots Pine and Douglas Fir to the trig point at the northern end of the plantation. Circling around the common we returned back to our cars with fine views across to Blashford Lakes along the way.

The common is managed by the National Trust, it is steeped in history from its traditional pastoral management of the livestock and local people to World War Two military history revealed by old bunkers, rifle butts and gun emplacements. After our walk we went to the Alice Lisle Pub at Rockford. The pub is named after Lady Alice Lisle, the last woman to be publicly beheaded in England, who lived at nearby Moyles Court a large house, named after the Moels family who held the manor during the 13th century, is now home to Moyles Court School. A few weeks after the Duke of Monmouth's failed rebellion to overthrow James II, Alice was discovered giving shelter to Richard Nelthorpe and the nonconformist minister John Hickes, both supporters of Monmouth. Following her trial by the infamous Judge Jefferys, she was executed on the 2 September 1685 in Winchester, close to the 16th-century Eclipse Inn. Alice is buried at St Mary and All Saints Church in Ellingham, a mile to the west of Moyles Court.

| Birds | Birds Cont. | Fungi | Flowering Plants |
|-------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Mistle Thrush | Blue Tit | Bleeding Oak Crust | Common Ragwort |
| Great Tit | Collard Dove | Turkey Tail | Yarrow |
| Jackdaw | Robin | Hairy Curtain Crust | Gorse |
| House Sparrow | Wood Pigeon | Sulphur Tuft | Alder Catkins |
| Rook | Nuthatch | Jelly Spot | |
| Mallard | Goldfinch | Heridium sp. Poss Coral Tooth | |
| Black-headed Gull | Jay | Amanita species | |
| Pied Wagtail | Wren | Yellow Brain | |
| Little Egret | Mute Swan | Tricholoma (Knight) species | |
| Redwing | Cormorant | | |
| Blackbird | Shoveler | | |
| Chaffinch | Canada Goose | | |
| Song Thrush | Great Crested Grebe | | |
| Carrion Crow | Great Spotted Woodpecker | | |



Moyles Court, view to Blashford Lakes by Lyn Traves