



RINGWOOD NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

A wild flower identification foray in Jayne's garden

Date: 24th August 2021
 Weather: Sunny
 Walk Leaders: Jayne and Martin O'Reilly
 Attendees: 13

Jayne and Martin live on the south side of the River Avon within the parish of St Leonards and St Ives Dorset, although their postal address is Ringwood Hampshire. Their home is situated near the turning off the A31 with the Verwood/Matchams Junction in Hurn Lane. Their large garden has wonderful views towards the water meadows of the River Avon and the Castleman Trailway. We had a nice sunny day to have a picnic lunch in their garden before we carried out the foray, the highlight was finding a Female Wasp Spider, which is an Orb Web Spider on her web. The web has a wide, white zig-zag strip running down the middle to help the spider catch its prey, its known as a 'stabilimentum'. Jayne said all the grasshoppers in the garden (the spiders favourite food) have disappeared! After our visit the spider laid eggs which are contained in one of the largest egg sacs of any of the spiders found in Britain. It is urn shaped, pale brown in colour, often with dark brown vertical bands and about 25mm across. She fills it with eggs and then seals the top with more silk. Jayne and Martin are eagerly waiting to see what happens next year. To finish with we had tea and cake.

Many thanks to Jayne and Martin for their hospitality.

Flowering Plants	Flowering Plants cont	Birds	Insects
Catsear	Stinging Nettle	Dunnock	Common Darter Dragonfly
Sneezewort	Hairy Bittercress	Wood Pigeon	Emperor Dragonfly
Yarrow	Self-heal	Blue Tit	Small White Butterfly
Red Campion	Broad-leaved Willowherb	House Sparrow	Large White Butterfly
Common Ragwort	Hoary Willowherb	Robin	Brimstone Butterfly
Common Evening Primrose	Herb Robert	Wren	Red Admiral Butterfly
Garden Catmint	Foxglove	Stock Dove	Small Tortoiseshell Butterfly
Petty Spurge	Scarlet Pimpernel	Sparrowhawk	Football Hoverfly
Birdsfoot Trefoil	Ox-eye Daisy		Marmalade Hoverfly
Daisy	Common Hemp-nettle	Mammals	Long Hoverfly
Field Scabious	Sheep's Sorrel	Grey Squirrel	Common Greenbottle Fly
Marjoram	Tansy	Wood Mouse	Flesh Fly
Prickly Sow-thistle	Spear Thistle		White-tail Bumblebee
Dianthus sp.		Arachnids	Buff-tail Bumblebee
Common Comfrey		Wasp Spider	Carder Bumblebee
Himalayan Balsam			Honey Bee
Nipplewort			Leaf Beetle sp.



Female Wasp Spider from the back by Lyn Traves



Female Wasp Spider showing the stabilimentum on her web by Jane O'Reilly



Wasp Spider egg sac by Jayne O'Reilly