



Our apologies for not publishing the usual eight-page newsletter this quarter, due to unforeseen circumstances. However, the newsletter will appear as usual in September.

LOCAL FORTHCOMING EVENTS

June: **Sat 11th June. Berkshire Nature Conservation Forum conference.** 10am - 3.30pm. Oracle Corporation, Thames Valley Park. This will look at some of the work being done to restore and create wildlife habitats in Berkshire. Places limited: contact Kelly Thomas kellythomas@bbowt.org.uk

Saturday 11th June. Home Energy Workshops. This free event will provide practical, unbiased advice to help people to harness solar energy in their homes and/or to save energy - and money - through insulation, draught-proofing, and improved energy management. Room 3 at RISC, 35-39 London Street, Reading. from 10:30 to 12:30. For further details please see <http://www.readingfoe.org.uk> or contact John Booth 9868260.

July: **Saturday 9th July 9am. Mammals.** Discover what small mammals are found in Maiden Erlegh Nature Reserve. Meet Maryanne Thomas to look at the catch from an overnight mammal trapping at the reserve. Meet at the Interpretation Centre, Instow Road.

August: **Saturday 6th August.** 10am - 3pm. Join us for the annual **Green Fair** at the Maiden Erlegh Nature Reserve.

Wednesday 10th August Children, come and join us for our annual **Bug Hunt** in Maiden Erlegh Nature Reserve (young ones please bring a parent). Meet at the Interpretation Centre 10am - 12pm. Minimum age 4yrs; booking essential. Contact Jean 9861115

September: **Wednesday 14th Sept, 7.30pm. Geoconservation and Geoconservation sites in Berkshire.** Learn how Berkshire's best geological sites are preserved. Talk by Lesley Dunlop of Berkshire Geoconservation Group. Function Room, Maiden Place Community Centre, off Kilnsea Drive.

Recent EEG meetings have included; a dawn chorus walk with Ray Reedman at Lavell's Lake, when 24 bird species were seen or heard including Nightingale and Cetti's Warbler, and a Bat walk around Maiden Erlegh lake when 4 species of bat – Soprano & Common Pipistrelle, Noctule & Daubenton's were seen and heard using bat detectors including our own bought with a grant from the Earley Charity

Recent activities. As well as the Wednesday Group which meets on Wednesday mornings to carry out practical tasks in Maiden Erlegh Reserve and at other ETC sites, the Friday Group meets to survey roadside verges for areas worthy of conservation, to work towards the creation of a local walking and cycling map and to survey veteran trees. Contact Grahame Hawker on 07796170689 for further information. We have worked with the Borough Council to protect 3 road verges in Earley so far, by reducing the amount of mowing.

Earley Adopt-a-Street Initiative (EASI) Following the success of the annual litter pick, a number of EEG members have carried on the good work, in conjunction with MERA (Maiden Erlegh Residents' Association). We now have over 140 people actively and regularly tidying up the streets and green spaces of Earley, but more are needed. Want to find out more? Phone Brian on 9861115, or email ask.mera@btinternet.com

LOCAL NEWS

Could your garden support the University's pond project?

The project is looking to install ponds in gardens in the Earley, Winnersh and Twyford areas for free. They will be installed in the autumn with each pond measuring 2m in diameter and a maximum 30cm depth.

Adam Freeman-Pask, who is organising the project as part of his PhD in the Environmental Biology section said: "We want to establish a network of 50 new ponds in Reading to enhance the biodiversity of urban areas by providing a clean and safe aquatic habitat to protect freshwater wildlife.

"Once the ponds have been established they will also serve as a useful research tool in assessing the effects urban areas have on biodiversity. Students will monitor the habitat quality and biodiversity level of the ponds for four years.

If you would like be part of the scheme, please email a.s.freeman-pask@pgr.reading.ac.uk. For more information about the pond scheme, please visit <http://www.reading.ac.uk/blogs/urbanpond/>.

Join the **EEG Yahoo Group** and **post your sightings and messages**. You'll find a link to Yahoo on our website. EEG Committee Members can be found on www.earleyenvironmentalgroup.co.uk under Contacts, or phone 0118 962 0004

Comments or contributions to the newsletter to: sheila.crowson@ntlworld.com or 2 Reeds Avenue, Earley, RG6 5SR. We welcome short contributions from members to the newsletter.

If you know anyone who would like to **join EEG, membership** forms are available from Earley Town Council, 0118 986 8995, on the [website](#) under Downloads, or send an e-mail to Liz Wild at liz@helva.plus.com. **Please inform Liz if you intend to change e-mail or address** at 50 Kenton Rd, Earley RG6 7LG, or send an e-mail.

SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL SHOPS

The True Food Co-op, Silverdale Centre : There is a True Food Co-op operating in Earley, their most successful market. Their aim is to take low-cost organic food out to the community, bypassing the supermarkets which charge a lot for organics. They hold markets at the Silverdale Centre on Fridays, 5 to 8.15 p.m. Visit the website for more information. www.truefood.coop

Pet Fayre 9 Maiden Lane Centre Lower Earley : A small independent shop, with bird feeders of all kinds, a variety of bird feed, large bags of which the shop is willing to deliver locally, or pick it up in your car from the back of the shop, tel 0118 926 6512, e-mail sales@petfayre-reading.co.uk or go on the comprehensive website www.petfayre-reading.co.uk

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