



Little Marlow Lakes Country Park

Spring in Westhorpe

The last few months have been very exciting in the Westhorpe area of the proposed Country Park. Whilst some may consider the arrival of new chicks, ducklings and bunnies a nuisance, even the hardest cannot fail to have their hearts melted a little at the sight of these adorable baby creatures, especially when you see the colourful varieties that arrive. You may well spot a few bright ginger or jet black rabbits in the fields.



We have also been delighted to see the return of some wild orchids thanks to the recent weather. So far we have spotted Green Winged, Bee and Pyramid Orchids, and continually look out for more varieties. If you should spot some, please let us know. We also discovered an unusual white Bluebell amongst the common blue ones on Spinneys Path which was a pleasure. There are so many beautiful wild flowers to be seen. Make the most of the beautiful walks and see what you can find.



Photos by Westhorpe residents

We are also very lucky and proud to have some unusual birds amongst our list of residents of and visitors to Westhorpe. Whilst the Red Kite may be a common sight in the Chilterns now, it is still important to remember that this bird is on the Amber Species List due to its historical decline and was only saved from extinction by a protection programme. There are still only 1,800-2,000 breeding pairs in the whole UK. They make a magnificent sight when feeding from the fields in Westhorpe.



Red Kite



Common Kestrel



Little Owl

We also have a few owls that can be seen in the area if you look hard enough. You will, however have no problem hearing them in the evening. The Little Owls can be seen during the day perching in a tree, whilst the Tawny Owl is rarely seen but heard every night.

There is also a very handsome Kestrel that regularly visits the area to feed and rest, and he really is a lovely sight when doing what he does best, filling his tummy!



Tawny Owl

Should you want to find out more information about the birds to be seen in the proposed Country Park area, including the rarer species on the Spade Oak Nature Reserve, please contact us, or the Bucks Bird Club (www.bucksbirdclub.co.uk).



If you would like to volunteer and get involved, or find out any more information about the Country Park project, please contact:

Verity West - Chairman

Little Marlow Lakes Country Park: Community Partnership

www.littlemarlow.org

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