



Newsletter - Summer **2** Edition 2025

Welcome to the Summer 2025
Friends of Polegate Jubilee Nature
Reserve newsletter.

Important News
Special General Meeting
See reverse for details.

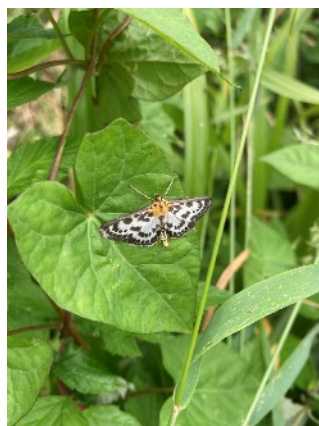
What can we say about the weather -
alternatively grey and windy or unseasonably
hot, followed by torrential rain!
Despite (or because of?) this the reserve
has been flourishing and, as usual we've
had to spend lots of time keeping the
paths clear.

Some of the vegetation has reached great
heights, as illustrated by one of our group
with this magnificent specimen *[below left]*
identified by iNaturalist www.inaturalist.org
as Black Mustard!



Other interesting plants we've come across
include this Hedge Woundwort *[above right]*
(as again identified by iNaturalist).

And a very pretty Magpie Moth - underside
and topside, captured sunning itself.



We've not been able to work properly on site
over the last couple of weeks because some
issues have arisen around our insurance cover.

However the good news is that, following the
vandalism of our notice board (even before we
had a chance to put up any notices!),
we're pleased to say that the broken glass has
replaced with a suitable tough plastic.
Thanks to Steve for completing this task.

In our last newsletter we told you of our plan to
introduce a wildlife pond, as suggested to us by
Sussex Wildlife Trust. Having consulted 'Pete
the Pond' and drawn up a detailed proposal,
we were expecting Polegate Town Council's
buildings and land committee to consider it at
their meeting at the end of June.

We'd been assured that, providing we could
provide all the relevant details (which we did),
there was unlikely to be any problem with
approval.

Unfortunately, and without any warning the
subject of the pond was pulled from the agenda
by the council at the last minute. They have
said that they need to consider some
objections; what, or from whom, we don't know.



In the meantime the council has been busy at the reserve, installing a number of large signs warning of the stream running through the site. It is important to make sure visitors to the site are aware of potential hazards, although

for the most part you cannot see or reach the stream in any case. If nothing else these signs will provide perching posts for the birds!

There has been lots of video footage from the cameras taken in recent months.

The task of looking through them has been made quite time consuming and difficult because of the windy weather.

99% of the 'action' seems to have been triggered by foliage waving in the wind but you have to watch it all to make sure there's nothing interesting!

We did capture one visitor - a more domestic, and a frequent one, judging by appearances in the videos - doing a grand job guarding the entrance!



Upcoming Events

Bat Walk

8.15 pm Monday 11 August

Please meet at the reserve gates by 8.10 pm.

Sorry - No dogs.

Special General Meeting

6.00 pm Monday 18th August 2025

at Polegate Town Council Offices

Please note: the date and time are to be confirmed - please look out for an email update.

We are sorry to tell you that our Friends group may be forced to disband. Faced with ongoing issues and lack of support we have reached the position that the running of the committee has become unsustainable.

Unless new committee members are willing to come forward and take up officer roles we cannot continue.

We are therefore calling a special general meeting to which everyone on our mailing list (i.e. our membership) is invited to attend, in order to discuss and rule on disbanding the committee, and consequently the Friends of Polegate Jubilee Nature Reserve group.



The Special General Meeting mentioned above was a success! We are grateful to all 18 people who attended: members of the public, councillors, staff of Polegate Town Council (PTC) and former committee members.

Some new appointments have been made to our committee, which has now eight individuals to share the responsibility of running the work in co-operation with the PTC.

They have a lot to do catching up after all onsite work and advance planning was suspended for one month.

Soon we shall be looking for more volunteers to help with practical work on site, so please do get in touch if you would like to be involved.

We are interested in attracting new committee members to expand our small group, and welcome volunteers, not only to work on site, but to help us with other activities such as organising and publicising events, grant applications and any other one-off tasks.

If you would like to find out more about the reserve or how to get involved, or you would simply like to receive the quarterly newsletter and notices of any events, please email polegatenaturereserve@gmail.com

