

COMMITTEE COMMENTARY Trevor Russell

The April meeting heard that remedial work has been carried out in Goytre House Wood. Thanks to generous co-operation from the Gwent Wildlife Trust, a professional team from GWT Ebbw Vale cleared a swathe of bramble from a long fence line adjoining the neighbouring farmer's field. At the same time a Health & Safety inspection was carried out by a professional tree surveyor (GOS owns the Wood which not only has a public footpath running through it, but it also backs onto a canal towpath; we would be liable if people were injured due to falling trees). Several trees will need attention but work will be postponed until September/October, safely beyond the breeding season for birds and bats.

Lack of support from GOS members continues to jeopardise GOS's attendance at Summer Shows. At a time when we need to boost membership by promoting ourselves at Summer Shows, it is very disappointing to find so few volunteers willing to spend just a couple of hours at our stand. We have had to decline many invitations simply because we cannot generate sufficient volunteers. If you are unsure what is involved, just give a Committee member a call!

In celebration of this, our 50th Anniversary year, a small team has been compiling a book, to be called 'Best Birdwatching'

Walks in Gwent

. Road testing has been done to check the narrative for accuracy (for directions, not to guarantee bird presence!). Launch date will be November

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GOS

and

WOS

(Welsh Ornithological Society) will be hosting a day-long Anniversary Conference at the Bridges Community Centre, Monmouth. The guest speakers will include Al

Venables

, Steve Roberts and Jerry Lewis. Make a note in your diary!

Declining membership numbers continues to concern the committee, so much so that a special meeting was convened simply to discuss ideas and initiatives that might reverse the trend. Look out for renewed publicity in the future. Meanwhile if you have any ideas to bolster our numbers please let us know. Even better, invite a friend to one of our events, they might enjoy it enough to want to join!

Recent Gwent Sightings for March 2013

Highlights

A Lesser Scaup was present at Parc Bryn Bach Lake, Tredegar (from 27th). A Great White Egret was seen at the N

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(13

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), whilst a Spoonbill was at Newport Wetlands (

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Landisfield

Reservoir (23

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