



Elephant Hawk Moth



Moth Trapping June

We had a fantastic evening at the Orchard in late June with about four barbecues going while the early evening sun came out and children played in amongst the trees. Peter pruned the plum trees to encourage more fruiting growth next year and allow air and light into the centre of the trees. This helps to prevent diseases but encourage ripening. Seema worked hard and cleared a lot of weeds from around some of the younger trees; this needs doing regularly if you are able to pop in and help keep the weeds at bay.

After a hearty meal we settled down to listen to Michael, from Sussex Wildlife Trust give a very entertaining talk with full glorious technicolour flip chart diagrams that he had obviously spent a lot of time preparing. We learnt about the '**Lewes Wave**', a moth first found in, and named after, Lewes but no longer found here. As darkness fell we began to see some of the bigger moths and the children became adept at carefully catching them for Michael to identify, catching a couple of stunning Elephant Tiger Moths. My little boy curled up to sleep in a tent many hours past his bed time while the rest of us carried on obsessively chasing yet another moth. I left at midnight with four sleepy children and the moth trapping and bat detecting continued to 1am.

Other News

Ringmer Community College students came out to the orchard at the end of June and created the first storey of a bug hotel, planted wildflowers and took lots of photos of insects and wildflowers to keep a wildlife record of the orchard. They will be coming back in September for the harvest.

With the grass left long the insect life has hugely increased and the trees are no longer troubled with green or black fly.

Summer Jobs at the Orchard

Any time: Weeding and mulching around young trees
 Removing excess dock plants
 Clearing around hedge plants on bank

27th July: Putting weights on trees and learn why we do this

Fruit Picking

Exact dates to come

Mid to late August: Plums

Early – Mid Sept: Scrumptious, Lord Lambourne, Bramley, Lord Derby, Red Falstaff, Newton Wonder, Edward VII

Late September: Red Falstaff, Ribston Pippin, Adam's Pearmain, Lord derby, Newton Wonder, , Edward VII, Crawley Beauty, Pears: Beurre Hardy, Concorde, Onward

Early to mid October: Adam's Pearmain, Ashmead's Kernel, Court Pendu Plat

Peter May our technical expert will be up at the orchard at various times through the summer please give him a ring to arrange joining him there to learn on the job then give him a ring on tel: 01273 475967.

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