

## Community Leisure

# Attenborough Weather Notes

## September Weather Review

ANYONE who has walked around Attenborough Nature Reserve recently may have noticed the bountiful crop of fruit on trees this autumn, such as hawthorn and rowan. This has been good news for our wildlife, which last year endured a very poor crop of fruit due to the cool and wet summer and then had to survive the following cold winter. One legacy of the exceptional rainfall of 2012 was that it ruled out the chance of drought conditions in 2013, which can affect the quality of fruit. The weather since then has been perfect for 2013 to be called a 'mast year', a year of abundant fruit and nuts on our native

trees.

This year's cold spring had the effect of delaying flowering until conditions warmed up in late May, thus causing trees to produce copious amounts of blossom in a shorter period of time. The late flowering time helped the blossom avoid frost damage (last frost was May 1) and the pleasant late spring weather ensured there were lots of pollinating insects around. By contrast, in 2012 pollinating insects didn't come out in big numbers due to the cool and wet conditions. The result was lots of pollinated flowers and lots of fruit starting to form.

Then we had a sunny and hot July which helped ripen the fruit, followed by a warm and showery August, both of which should herald a bumper autumn crop. One other legacy of a late spring is that the fruit crop might be later this year. Sloes, the berry of the blackthorn, are often 'best' after the first frost of the autumn, which is normally mid to late October, and was October 14 last year.

An example of how our weather varies and how this affects wildlife can be seen by looking back at 2011. That spring was gloriously warm, dry and sunny and the brambles fruited early in July, in the midst of

the bird breeding season, and blackberry pickers inadvertently trampled over a nest containing whitethroat chicks. Whilst the bird-breeding season has long since passed, if you are going out 'fruit picking', please stick to the paths and not trample the pathside habitat. Hopefully, the bumper crop of fruit will be good news for our wildlife, both the resident species, and the winter arrivals that will be coming to Attenborough Nature Reserve very soon.

*Andrew Shaw, ANC*

## September Weather Data

including long-term norms (figures in red):

Average temperature:  
14.6°C (14.7°C)

Highest temperature:  
24.3°C, September 4  
(24.9°C)

Lowest temperature:  
8.4°C, September 15  
(5.4°C)

Monthly rainfall:  
22.2mm (51.3mm)

Solar panels output:  
740Kwh (736Kwh)

# A perk for the funds of Nottinghamshire's leading wildlife charity

ONE of the UK's leading suppliers of wild bird foods and accessories has provided a major funding boost to the work of the county's largest locally based environmental charity – the Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust – thanks to sales of its Walter Harrison range of bird food, feeders and bird care accessories.

As part of a successful long-term partnership, Walter Harrison's donates a percentage of its sales revenue from the range to the Wildlife Trust to support its conservation and

education programmes. The funding principally supports work at Attenborough Nature Reserve, but also assists the charity with its work at other sites across the county.

A cheque for £14,873 was presented to Wildlife Trust Chairman Valerie Holt by Walter Harrison's Product Development Manager, Sean Kelly, at a recent event. Speaking on behalf of the Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust, Head of Communications Erin McDaid said: "We are

proud to work with Walter Harrison's and sell their excellent range at our centres at Attenborough and the Idle Valley, near Retford. In addition to generating income from our own sales, the fact that the company provides us with an additional generous donation each year makes it easier for us to plan our nature reserve management and education work.

Speaking on behalf of Walter Harrison, Sean Kelly said: "We are delighted once again to support

the Nottinghamshire Wildlife Trust; its goals and philosophy are very much in keeping with everything we stand for here at Walter Harrison. The Trust's work is invaluable in helping to preserve, protect and educate for future generations and we like to feel that we are helping to support this important local charity."

Mr McDaid added: "The backing of companies like Walter Harrison is vital for charities such as ours and we'd very much

like to thank the team at the company and their customers for their support. Caring for our nature reserves and providing subsidised environmental education opportunities for children across Nottinghamshire costs us hundreds of thousands of pounds each year and the money from Walter Harrison will be a big help."

**Mindset @ Middle Street**

## Open Day

Thursday, October 17

10.30am – 3pm

The Day Centre,  
74 Middle Street,  
Beeston

(next to Humber Lodge, corner of Humber Road)

You are invited to explore the range of membership and volunteering opportunities, including therapeutic groups, creative and performing arts, outdoor activities and college courses.

Stained Glass • Music  
Gardening • Poetry  
Jewellery

Performances of music and poetry throughout the day

A variety of stalls from Mindset groups and partner organisations

Free refreshments and buffet

All Welcome

In association with Nottingham Mental Health Awareness Weeks