

BYSTOCK

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Autumn 2019



Clouded agaric fungus



Common darter dragonfly



Photos: Roger Hamling

Ivy berries

Wildlife to look for

Red Admiral, Peacock, Speckled Wood and White butterflies are still flying on warm sunny days. Common Darter dragonflies can be seen as late as December.

Autumn is the best time to look for fungi, especially after rain. Bystock has many different habitats, e.g., Pine, beech and mixed woodland; dry and wet heath; grassland and ponds. If you look in each area you will be rewarded with a wide range of species.

By the end of October many of our wintering birds will have returned. Probably the most obvious are redwings and fieldfares. These members of the thrush family often join blackbirds, song and mistle thrushes in and around the Meadow. Some blackcaps and chiffchaffs also manage to find enough food to overwinter here. Look for foraging flocks of tits, nuthatches, treecreepers and goldcrests. These mixed flocks are characterised by the birds constantly calling.

Reserve management

The fortnightly work parties continue to clear scrub. They have spent several sessions 'bracken bashing' on the west side of valley. By pulling the stems of bracken, or cutting it down, its growth is weakened. We hope that, in a few year's time the bracken will greatly reduce and allow the heathers to thrive.

Bramble clearance has been carried out in the meadow. Whilst bramble provides good nectaring for butterflies it has spread over too much of the Meadow and is pushing out more delicate plants.

The **COUNTRYSIDE CODE**, 2004 says that, **BY LAW**, you must **CONTROL** your **DOG** so that it **DOES NOT DISTURB** or **SCARE WILDLIFE**.



**Please keep
DOGS on LEADS**
to give ground nesting birds
a chance to breed successfully