

BYSTOCK

Autumn 2021

Things to look for in Autumn

Red admiral, peacock, speckled wood and white butterflies are still flying on warm sunny days. Southern and migrant hawkers will fly into mid October. Common darter dragonflies can be seen as late as December.

Autumn is the season to look for fungi. Your search will be more productive after a period of 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

Due to Covid-19 the fortnightly volunteer work parties have been suspended. Our reserves officer has been very busy travelling over the county attending to safety issues and essential work on many of the Trust's reserves.



Please keep DOGS on LEADS



Long-tailed tit



Parasol mushroom



Common darter dragonfly

Photos: Roger Hamling