

NATURE NOTES

They might bug you but insects do sustain our natural world

NatureNotes



The giddy heights of May's natural song and dance have peaked and June stretches out with a verdant and voluptuous greenery bursting with life. All that birdsong, all that posturing, the territorial barking of the muntjac and the dive-bombing aerial displays of buzzards have culminated in one thing: offspring! The air is filled with the sound of newborn squeaking, cheeping and pleading - one thing on their minds: food!

It's a pleasant sound and from every corner of my garden the calls of great and blue tits keep up a constant rhythm - some from fledged birds and some from their less daring siblings still holed-up in the nest boxes and bushes.

Starlings, that have been largely invisible until now, are suddenly descending in noisy flocks on the lawn to feed.

If it weren't for their uniform squabbling you'd think they were two separate species: the adults resplendent in glossy blue-black sheened feathers but the new juveniles pale and plain in a simple brown plumage.

To accompany this burst of new life an equally vital explosion of insect life provides a feast for hungry mouths.

I find myself increasingly stopped in my tracks by the sheer profusion of insect life, some dazzlingly beautiful and some verging on the bizarre! I sense myself undergoing a kind of conversion or maybe 'an



A swollen-thighed beetle (*Oedemera nobilis*).

Picture: RUPERT EVERSHED

expansion' to a world I have until now not really noticed in detail.

With a new pair of binoculars that can focus right down to four feet I can now examine the inhabitants of leaves, riverside reeds and dragonflies that alight on the path ahead.

What greets my eyes has been quite a revelation: an endless world of intricate beauty and diversity.

Whether it is the glossy metallic green swollen-thighed beetles resting on the petals of Michaelmas daisies or the solid gold ingot of a female broad-bodied chaser (a kind of dragonfly) atop a twig it seems the greenery of June is bejeweled with hidden gems at every turn.

With each new discovery - red-headed cardinal beetle and long-jawed orb weaver spiders just



recently - a realization is dawning that what I am looking at is actually the main act.

The larger more showy flora and fauna unsurprisingly capture our attention - singing birds, shy deer and floral blooms - but underlying all of them is a miniature world of

"They Taste So Much Better Straight From The Garden!"

Now everyone can grow the Nation's favourite plum, sweet, juicy Plum 'Victoria'

We are delighted to be able to offer the joys of the nation's favourite Plum 'Victoria', but small enough for EVERY garden! Now anyone can grow juicy, fresh Vics, even on a balcony, terrace or small patio. It produces lovely pure white spring blossom displays, and is self-fertile, so no other plums needed for fruit - just leave the bees to do their thing! Perfect in large patio pots (minimum 30cm diameter) for 5 years or so, it produces big, juicy crops of classic red Victoria Plums, yet stays small, manageable and perfect for everyone. Supplied as a grafted patio tree pot grown in 4L pot, shaped and ready to plant out into garden soil or large pots.

- BONUS OFFER -



Nation's Favourite Apple 'Golden Delicious' Tree

Now you too can grow this ever-popular variety but much better tasting and at a fraction of the cost of supermarket-bought apples! Golden Delicious is brilliant for growing in your garden. Its fruits have exceptionally sweet, rich flavour and a distinctive golden-green colour. They will look wonderful as they ripen on your tree and it is also heavy-cropping and easy to grow - what more could you want?! Supplied as a 1M tall, grower quality, potted tree. Grown on dwarfing rootstock.

ONLY £19.99

3 EASY WAYS TO ORDER NOW
www.enjoygardeningmore.co.uk/EGMP183

Tel: 0844 502 4444

OR SEND YOUR COUPON TO

PO Box 637, Wetherby,
York, YO26 0DQ

PATIO PLUM
'LITTLE VIC'
£19.99
SAVE £10.00

Code	Product Name	Qty	Price	Total
300125	Patio Plum 'Little Vic' SAVE £10		£19.99	
300042	Apple 'Golden Delicious' Tree		£19.99	
Get Enjoy Gardening More Membership NOW! Get £20.00 free vouchers & Save 10% on every item you order!				
820008	1 year membership: was £20.00 SAVE: £10.00!		£10.00	
820009	Renewal Subscription Membership*: Was £20.00 SAVE: £15.00!		£5.00	

DON'T FORGET! Deduct 10% if you joined Enjoy Gardening More
OFFER CODE: EGMP183 TOTAL P&P £6.99
TOTAL

If you would like to occasionally receive offers by email & a FREE copy of our (digital) catalogue, please tick here

Name _____
Address _____
Postcode _____
Email _____
Signature _____

I enclose a cheque for £ made payable to Enjoy Gardening More Please write your name and address on the back of your cheque. Or please debit my...

Card Type VISA
Card Number
Issue Number
Security Number

*We'll automatically renew your membership every year, so you can keep saving - AND the price will NEVER go up. - GUARANTEED! Full details at EnjoyGardeningMore.com/Member. Orders dispatched within 7 working days. Delivery to UK only and a £6.00 surcharge may apply to the following postcode areas: AB, BT, DD8-11, GY, HS, IM, IV, JE, KA27-28, KW, PA21-80, PH19-20, T21-25 & ZE. Offer subject to availability and in the event that this offer is oversubscribed, we reserve the right to send suitable substitutes. Images show mature plants in situ. See website for product details and T&Cs. © enjoygardeningmore 2018. *Offer excludes outdoor living and machinery.

NATURE NOTES



(Left) A four-spotted chaser dragonfly (*Libellula quadrimaculata*) and (above) a red-headed cardinal beetle (*Pyrochroa serricornis*)
 Pictures: RUPERT EVERSHED

insect life feeding, pollinating and supporting all life. From beneath the top of the soil to high in the atmosphere our world is populated by a plethora of bug life critical to its survival. It has been estimated that on a summer's day upward of three

billion insects are passing over our heads. This aerial plankton is of course the diet of our summer-visiting swifts, already back over our towns and hoovering up insects and spiders in their wide-open gapes, either for themselves or

their new brood in the nest. Looking through my binoculars recently into what appeared to the naked eye to be a crystal clear blue sky I could see hundreds of black dots rising on the breeze. In the same view swifts scythed back and forth enjoying this floating meal. Above them higher still another predator circled too – a cause of concern not just for the insects but for the swifts too. Peregrine-like and as agile as a swift, the hobby is master of the

summer skies. Visiting us from Africa to breed, this small falcon is perhaps the only bird capable of catching a swift in flight and regularly does. Later in the year the hobbies will be hawking dragonflies over pools and lakes and watching a Hobby feeding her three young last year I was astounded at the rate of insect-consumption: just one short circuit would bring a hapless dragonfly back to the waiting young beaks. The frequency and

efficiency of these forays emphasized the importance of abundance when it comes to insect life. With so much of our birdlife in sharp decline and a scientific report published earlier this year revealing that over 40 per cent of insect species are nearing extinction globally, it is perhaps time to turn our attentions to this tiny world that we are apt to squash, spray, run from and at best brush aside!







SUMMER FAMILY BREAKS FROM JUST £79 PER ADULT WITH KIDS HALF PRICE

Pakefield - Lowestoft Holiday Park

Remember... All Family breaks include:

- ✓ All you can eat breakfast & delicious 3-course evening meal
- ✓ Fantastic live entertainment every night
- ✓ Range of daytime activities
- ✓ Use of leisure & entertainment facilities

Pontins family breaks guarantee fun for the whole family. Packed with entertainment and leisure activities on every break, the biggest problem is fitting it all in!

Catch the Bluecoats in their brand new live shows, plus there's new character shows, tribute acts, vocalists, comedy and magic acts! Not forgetting the big cash bingo, kids clubs, discos and much more!

July – August Family Breaks - From Just £79 per adult - Live Entertainment

	July 22	July 26	July 27	July 29	Aug 02	Aug 03	Aug 05	Aug 09	Aug 10
	Mon-4N	Fri-3N	Sat-7N	Mon-4N	Fri-3N	Sat-7N	Mon-4N	Fri-3N	Sat-7N
Per Adult	£89	£79	£149	£89	£89	£169	£99	£89	£169
Per Child	£44.50	£39.50	£74.50	£44.50	£44.50	£84.50	£49.50	£44.50	£84.50

	Aug 12	Aug 16	Aug 17	Aug 19	Aug 23	Aug 24	Aug 26	Aug 30
	Mon-4N	Fri-3N	Sat-7N	Mon-4N	Fri-3N	Sat-7N	Mon-4N	Fri-3N
Per Adult	£99	£89	£169	£99	£89	£169	£99	£79
Per Child	£49.50	£44.50	£84.50	£49.50	£44.50	£84.50	£49.50	£39.50








New for 2019
Linen & Beds made up for arrival

ADULT ONLY ENTERTAINMENT BREAKS

FROM £65 PER ADULT - HALF BOARD

Pontins Pakefield - Lowestoft Holiday Park

Welcome to Pakefield-Lowestoft Holiday Park, set in the county of Suffolk, with wonderful sandy beaches and the famous Norfolk Broads just two miles away, this is the perfect place to relax and unwind.

Remember... All Family breaks include:

- ✓ All you can eat breakfast & delicious 3-course evening meal
- ✓ Bed linen supplied, and beds made up for arrival
- ✓ Fantastic live entertainment every night
- ✓ Range of daytime activities
- ✓ Use of leisure & entertainment facilities
- ✓ Just for grown-ups

There are a range of daytime activities & leisure facilities on all breaks, you really can do as little or as much as you like. Unwind with a leisurely game of crazy golf or a swim in the heated indoor pool.

In the evenings enjoy a wide variety of live entertainment such as fantastic vocalists and tribute acts, party bands, comedians, as well as Bluecoat shows, cash bingo and much more!

Date	Day	Nights	Break Theme	Price
02-Sep	Mon	4	Select Midweek	£69pp
09-Sep	Mon	4	Select Midweek	£69pp
13-Sep	Fri	3	60's Party Weekender	£79pp
16-Sep	Mon	4	Music of the States	£69pp
20-Sep	Fri	3	Stars of the 70's	£79pp
23-Sep	Mon	4	Stars of the 60's	£89pp
27-Sep	Fri	3	Comedy Capers	£65pp
30-Sep	Mon	4	Ultimate Tributes Spectacular	£69pp
04-Oct	Fri	3	Stop in the Name of Motown	£79pp
07-Oct	Mon	4	Select Midweek	£69pp
11-Oct	Fri	3	Country Music Festival	£79pp
14-Oct	Mon	4	50's Fever	£69pp
21-Oct	Mon	4	Select Midweek	£69pp
25-Oct	Fri	3	Adult Halloween Party	£65pp
28-Oct	Mon	4	Comedy Capers	£69pp

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION OR TO BOOK CALL PONTINS ON 0844 576 5944 AND QUOTE TA88

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION OR TO BOOK CALL PONTINS ON 0844 576 5944 AND QUOTE TD23

Terms & Conditions: • Offers subject to availability, new bookings only, and offers & prices can be withdrawn without prior notice. • Price from £79 is per adult, based on selected 3N breaks on a minimum of 2 people sharing a Classic 1-bedroom apartment at Pakefield Holiday Park. • Children are half the adult price (child classification 2-13 years inclusive, under 2's go FREE). • Not all activities are available, many activities are free, there is a small charge for some activities. • Bed Linen & Towels are not included. • Call cost 13p per minute plus your phone company access charge. • For full terms and conditions visit <http://www.pontins.com/terms-and-conditions/> or ask at time of booking.

Terms & Conditions: • Subject to availability, new bookings only. Offers, prices & dates can be withdrawn without prior notice. • Bed linen supplied, and beds made up for arrival. • All breaks are adult only. • All prices are per person based on 2 people sharing a 1-bedroom classic apartment on dates stated on a half board basis. (single supplement applies) • Entertainment & activities are subject to change without prior notice. Some activities may be charged. • Towels are not included. • Call cost 13p per minute plus your phone company access charge. • For full terms and conditions visit <http://www.pontins.com/terms-and-conditions/> or ask at time of booking.