

2007 EVENTS & ACTIVITIES

Wednesday 30 May
2pm - 4pm

GREEN GANG EVENT STORMY WEATHER

Make rain sticks, thunder claps and whistling wind for a weather concert. First make and paint your musical instruments and write and read weather poems!

Book a place by phoning Penny Bearman on 01304 369332 or email pennybearman@uwclub.net.

CHARGE: £1 per child, maximum of £2 per family to cover materials.

LEADER: Penny Bearman, Loose Cannon Dynamic Arts

MEET: Hawkshill Freedown, entrance at corner of Liverpool Road and Gram's Road, Walmer, near Deal (TR 373 499).

Wednesday 27 June : 7pm - 9pm

WILD PLANTS ON HAWKSHILL FREEDOWN

Leader : Martin Newcombe

For details contact 01304 381506

Sunday 15 July : 10am

BUTTERFLY WALK

Leader : Michael Sykes

For details contact 01304 381506

Wednesday 1 August

2pm - 4pm

GREEN GANG EVENT BUTTERFLIES

Leader: Loose Cannon

For details contact 01304 369332

WANTED

Volunteers

willing to help with
monthly scrub clearance and
other environmental work

on Hawkshill.

Next Dates:

Sunday 3 June:

10.30am

Monday 18 June :

6.30pm

Contact Stan Stockley

01304 373304



View of Hawkshill looking South
towards Kingsdown in 1906

Green Gang is a special programme of activities organised for children and their families during the school holidays. These activities have been funded by Pfizer in conjunction with Walmer Parish Council



Monitoring the Flora and Fauna of the Freedown

2006 was the 6th year of wildflower monitoring on Hawkshill. Once again there has been an increase in the diversity of plants and in the number of those species we are seeking to encourage.

Despite the cold March the early wildflowers were soon visible with May the best time to find the blue Milkwort and yellow

Horseshoe Vetch on the banks. The pink Sainfoin was present through much of the summer which then gave way to the mauve Scabious. Finally the light blue of the Harebell and white of the Eyebright, some of which persisted even into October.

Main findings:

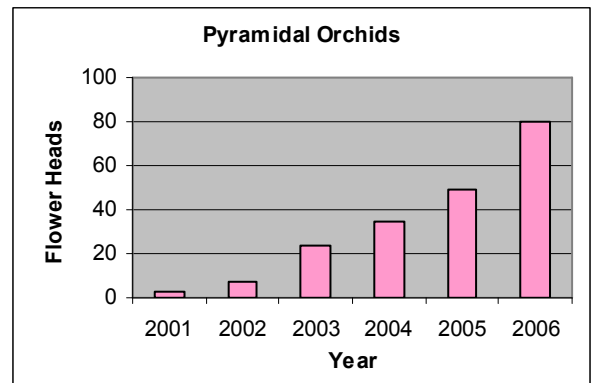
The number of pyramidal orchids increased for the 6th year in a row with 80 flower heads being counted, up 31 on the previous year.

53 different species of plant were identified in the survey area. 2 new species were identified elsewhere, these being Wild Strawberry and Evening Primrose. The most common plant was again the Ribwort Plantain.

Horseshoe vetch (food plant of Adonis Blue butterfly lava) was found for the first time on the

recently cleared area of the west facing slope. Grasses also appeared to be further colonising this area and it will be important to keep in check the less welcome species such as clematis, ivy and brambles if we are to see a full transition to good chalk grassland.

One interesting fact is that the average height of the grass across the site was over 6cm shorter than either of the previous 2 years. This could be caused by the dry weather or it could be an indication that the soil is becoming less fertile, which is a good sign as this will encourage more species of plant into the area and help others spread.



There is evidence that this is happening already on the plateau area, with a greater diversity of species being recorded here than in any other year. Also, it is clear that the wildflowers are increasing in numbers, with more Pyramidal orchids as already mentioned and clearly greater numbers of Scabious, Fairy Flax, and Marjoram. Another good sign is the first appearance of Kidney Vetch on the plateau area (Kidney Vetch is the food plant of the Small Blue butterfly).

RECENT IMPROVEMENTS

In addition to the vast improvements made to the Memorial, the Hawkshill Working Group arranged for the Electricity Board to erect fencing around the electricity sub station. The group also worked with Kent County Council to provide a much improved surface to the main footpath which leads from the car parking area on Liverpool Road up to the main grass plateau.



Pyramidal Orchids on Hawkshill Freedown

The work of the Hawkshill Working Group is funded by Walmer Parish Council.

If you would like to be put on the mailing list to receive future newsletters or require further information contact: -

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Deal, Kent
CT14 7AP**

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Website: www.walmercouncil.co.uk**

