



The weather couldn't have been kinder for our evening Ramble in July. It is the first time we have tried picnicking after a walk, rather than going to a pub, and this worked out well on this occasion. We didn't need a gazebo and there were enough chairs and tables for everyone to be comfortable, enjoy their picnic and to chat well into the evening.

July Meeting

At the July main meeting, members were privileged to hear and see a lecture by one of our members, Mick Mount ably assisted by wife Jenny, all about Raptor Ramblings. Mick showed slides of birds of prey in varying stages of development, including different habitats and food patterns. Did you know that the more food Barn Owls eat the more chicks they produce?

A variety of different owls, including Snowy Owls were shown including visitors from other countries. Wonderful moving slides of Buzzards, Golden Eagles and Kestrels catching prey and Fish Eagles catching salmon, they have very fierce beaks as well, all were interesting. Peregrines, which are welcomed by farmers, because they catch pigeons, nest in Church spires and chalk pits and have been seen at Bluewater. Buzzards which are increasing in our area have been seen flying over Cobham Hall.

The RSPB are protesting against the solar farms which are proposed near Gravesend, as it will decimate the bird population locally.

Mick and Jenny once had a large aviary and took in injured birds, including a Sparrow Hawk, which after treatment and care was returned to the wild.

The HiARA committee have agreed to donate toward the "sponsorship" of an owl or bird of prey at Wildwood Nature Reserve, nr Canterbury as a thank you to Mick for stepping in at very short notice when the original speaker became unwell and cancelled. We eagerly look forward to a photograph of it.

Pat Oakshott HiARA Publicity

Outings and Holidays

There are still some places for Bury St Edmunds Christmas Market on Sunday 25th November. This priced at £26 not £24 as stated in last newsletter.

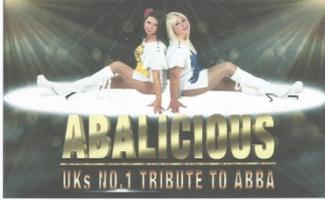
Tinsel and Turkey holiday in Paignton on 3rd December has still got some rooms left, if you wish to go, your deposit of £50 is due now with the balance due in September. The full price is £310 with no single supplement.

If you have tickets for Cobham Hall on 29th August, please be there by 2.00pm.

HiARA

Saturday 3rd November

Memorial Hall Higham



ABALICIOUS
UK's NO. 1 TRIBUTE TO ABBA

Come and enjoy an evenings entertainment featuring
ABALICIOUS

Doors open at 19.00 hours with performance starting at 19.30 Tables of 8 may be booked - bring your own drinks / nibbles / cutlery.
Ploughman's Supper Included
Tickets only £12

Kent Active Retirement Association Annual Service of Thanksgiving is to be held at Canterbury Cathedral on Thursday 25th October at 11.30 am. Doors open at 10.45am to be seated by 11.15 am. Donations appreciated and will be given to the Poppy Appeal. The theme of the service will also mark the 100th anniversary of the end of WWI. If you would like to attend, please let Jan Morriss know by September Social afternoon at the latest.