

# Bealeswood Common Wildlife

## December 2022

Bealeswood Wildlife Reporting Group (BWRG)  
Copies of this and previous notices can be found at:  
[www.dockenfieldpc.org.uk/wildlife](http://www.dockenfieldpc.org.uk/wildlife)

### Flowers (AB)

Looking back at 2022, the weather caused some unusual events in the plant world, some more noticeable than others. The drought and exceptional heat through July and August caused many trees to drop leaves while still green, and the autumn colours appeared late, with some oak trees remaining green for longer than usual: even when they had finally turned brown, some have held their leaves until Christmas and even the New Year.

In late August the rain returned and continued into the extremely wet autumn, when we experienced unusually warm weather with thunderstorms into mid-November. This brought on a rash of seedlings from both annuals and biennials, with lush new growth of vivid green grasses. The first frosts finally came with a vengeance in December, with 10 days of deep freeze. In other years, many plants on the Common would have continued flowering, with some 'spring' flowers such as the Primrose beginning in autumn, but at the end of this year everything is 'on hold'.



Blackberries and Oak leaves fringed with hoar frost (AC)

## Birds (AP)

A photographic diary of the activities of some of our resident birds in the winter on the Common (Alex Potts):



Male Blackbird feeding on fallen apples



Inquisitive Robin



In the trees a Nuthatch a Tree Creeper



a Goldcrest and a basking male Bullfinch



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*Amanda Adolph, Dan & Alison Bosence, Alan & Pauline Cox, Philippa & Colin Hall, Clare Jackson, Steve Lockett, Phil Nangle, Alex Potts, Christina Rasmussen, Anne Tutt, and Raf & Karen Wane. 31/12/2022.*