



LAMALEACH PARK

(A Wild Life Study)

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Until the mid sixties Lamaleach Park was part of Lamaleach Farm. The land was used for grazing cattle and sheep and was farmed by my father and myself.

Having owned a caravan park in Warton for several years and farming going through a bad patch we decided to develop some of the farm land into a caravan park and after receiving planning permission it took about eighteen months of development work before the first home arrived.

The land was open to pasture with a large shallow pond in the middle. The only trees were a few large old willow trees on the stream boundary. Bird life was very sparse but we had a few rabbits.

We started tree planting in 1969 and over the next three years over six hundred trees were planted as saplings. The trees took about 10 years to start maturing and we started to notice birds were taking advantage of the cover provided.



We now have most common garden birds and during the last few years, with the maturing of our woodlands, greater spotted woodpeckers have started to nest here as have goldfinches, a bird unknown at Lamaleach in previous years.

Grey squirrels, at one time not found in Freckleton, are now here in limited numbers (if numbers increase with the unfortunate raids of birds nests) culling will have to take place.



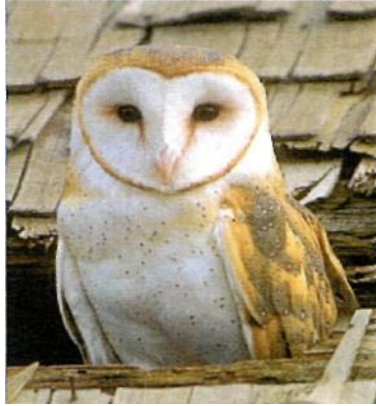
Summer evenings are the play and feeding time for the Pipestrelle Bats. The planting of shrubs such as Hebe, Buddleia and Sedum has encouraged butterflies and bees, which is very good, as nationally they are becoming endangered.

Lamaleach Park is famous, not only for the landscaping, but also for the many wonderful individual gardens created by the residents. This work has enabled the park to win six consecutive David Bellamy Gold Awards for conservation and also the North West in Bloom has twice featured us in their prestigious competition for excellence held every year.

Birds seen on the park include the following:-Blue Tits, Great Tits, Long Tailed Tits, Common Sparrow, Hedge Sparrow, Robins, Wrens, Swifts, Chaffinch, Gold Finch, Thrush, Blackbirds, Starlings, Collared Doves, Wood Pigeons, House Martins, Swallows, Herons, Greater Spotted Wood Pecker, Magpies, Crow, Herring Gulls.



Occasional visitors are Lapwings, Barn Owls, Blackcap, Fieldfare, Mistle Thrush, Kestrel, Sparrow Hawk, Pied Wagtail, Grey Wagtail, Moor Hen, Mallard.



So far no Kingfishers have been seen but it is wonderful to see on the airfield boundary, close to our fence, small flocks of about a dozen Grey Partridges.

Lamaleach Park has been nominated to be judged in the Britain in Bloom National competition in 2011



Our dedication to environmental issues and conservation has paid off abundantly - but we have to remember much of the beauty of the park is due to the hard work of our residents.

We are having a "nature Watch" **from 1st** January - 31 December 2011.

Everyone is invited to join us in this and submit photographs or comments of flora and fauna seen during the seasons.

We thank you in **advance for your help.**