

Knowle Park Nature Notes: July

In Buttercup pond you will see the striking bright yellow and purple-veined flowers of the yellow iris. This can be a useful plant for emerging dragonflies and damselflies as they make the transition from water to air. Reedmace is a familiar water plant that is often, but incorrectly, known as bulrush. It can grow up to two and a half metres tall and has long thin leaves. The flowers, which can be seen in June and July, are brown sausage-shapes with straw coloured spikes coming out of the top. The seeds are dispersed by the wind, much like those of dandelions. A single flower can produce as many as 200,000 seeds.

The bright yellow of the flowers of Birdsfoot trefoil can be found creeping through the grass, it is very attractive to insects and they will be pollinated by bees and butterflies which visit the flowers to collect their abundant nectar.

Bramble is also in flower attracting honey bees and hoverflies. There are over 300 micro-species of bramble and the flowers can range from white to light shades of pink.

Other things to look out for:

- The warm weather will encourage the cold blooded reptiles to come out from cover and bask in the sunshine, so look out for lizards, slow-worms and snakes.
- The pond is alive with insect life. There are dragonflies and damselflies, including Broad- bodied Chaser dragonflies.
- Ragwort is a major food source for over 150 insect species, including the Cinnabar moth, so as long as it doesn't get into the hay crop it is a valuable food source.



Broad-bodied Chaser Dragonfly



Cinnabar moth



Cinnabar moth larvae