

Report to the Parish Council 2023

Wildlife Group

Since setting the group up in summer 2021 we have had more than 20 villagers actively involved so far, as well as three classes, together with teachers and parent helpers, from the school, helping with the wildflower and wildlife projects. Posters and "Moulton Matters" have been used to advertise events and we are now able to email direct to most of the volunteers.

Fundraising

- Plant tombola and Open Gardens at the Jubilee celebration after which we were given £300 from the jubilee takings. 2021
- Stall at the Christmas fair 2022 selling dried flowers and pot pourri raising £47.
- Locality Grant of £300 from District Councillor Dicker. 2022

A Brief Summary of Activities since the inception of the group

Summer 2021

Article in Moulton Matters asking for anyone interested to get in touch. More than 10 villagers responded.

The Green

Spring 2022

- The ground was cleared and sown with a mix of flower seeds for pollinators - mostly annuals and some perennial plants.
- Created a woodpile for invertebrates under the chestnut tree from all the wood found as the site was cleared.
- Snowdrop bulbs and wild violets planted under the chestnut tree to add to the violets already there.

Summer 2022

- There was a great show of Californian poppies and other wildflowers.

Autumn 2022

- Everything left to go to seed. Some California poppies cleared as they died back.

Winter 2022

- Cleared the ground and sowed some seeds to the Packhorse side of the chestnut tree. Planted the excess hedging plants from the Playing Field along this boundary. Added snowdrops.

Spring 2023

- Ground cleared from the area planted last year and also extended the area to the left. Sowed wildflower seed purchased with the Locality Grant.

Playing Field

Winter 2022

- Hedgerow to the southern side cleared and planted with native hedging whips (hawthorn, hazel, viburnum and dog rose). Whips provided together with tubes and canes by the Sicon Foundation, (now known as Suffolk Environmental Projects,).

Also five saplings planted in front of the hedge line. Remaining hedging plants given to the school

Spring 2023

- Weeded area between the whips

Brookside

Spring 2023

- Cleared the ground in 8 areas and placed wildflower seed mats purchased with the Locality Grant.

Area by the Church Ford

Spring 2023

- Cleared a small area overlooking the river and placed the remaining seed mats at the top and sowed a wildflower mix on the lower area.

Bird and bat boxes

Spring 2023

- Five bird boxes purchased with the Jubilee funds erected on trees on The Green and Playing Field. Bird activity seen in at least three of them.
- Four additional bird boxes and a bat box purchased from the Locality Grant still to be erected.

Thanks

Particular thanks to Douglas James without whom the project could not have been started.

Thanks to Tim James for hanging the bird boxes.

Thanks to Natasha Ingram at Suffolk Environmental Projects, (Sicon,) for donating trees/covers/ canes and labour and advice.

Thanks to Mrs Shipp for involving the school children in planting the playing field hedgerow.

Thanks to all the volunteers and villagers who have provided seeds, bulbs and plants.

Also thanks to District Councillor Dicker for our Locality Grant.

Not forgetting our Parish Clerk Joanne Kirk for all her hard work and input.

Future Projects

- There is now a bird feeding station and bird food bought from the Locality Grant ready to erect on the playing field once a decision has been reached as to its exact position.
- Hedgehog highways have been suggested by some villagers which we would like to pursue.
- Expansion of our wildflower planting around the village, having learnt what wild flower seeds and plants will grow from our previous experience.