

# Report to the Parish Council May 2026

## Wild about Moulton!

Over the past year we have extended the wild flower area by the church ford and planted more meadow flowers. On The Green we've concentrated on high impact wild flowers which will also attract the pollinators.

### The Playing Field

The hedgerow on the playing field needs weeding and maintenance. Now the bushes are coming into leaf we can see the gaps and can infill them in the autumn. We also need to weed the more invasive species, particularly hemlock, but, so far, have lacked the manpower. Douglas has said he will be able to help with this. In the hedgerow we have planted 2 holly bushes and 2 native flowering trees, which we have regularly watered to establish them. In March we planted 2 standalone flowering cherry trees on the playing field funded by Dorothy's village lunches and her Christmas wreath making. These are now in bloom and an asset to the village. Again, we have made a point of watering these, but would like more volunteers.

### The Green

Last autumn the scouts, cubs and beavers created an insect house on The Green in the wild flower area. It is made of pallets, pots and sticks etc and has even been engraved by them. We're hoping that this will attract more insects and wildlife to the area.

On The Green in the copse beside the cottages we have cleared some of the undergrowth and exposed English bluebells flowering which were bought last spring. We are hoping that these will spread further next year.

### Bird Feeder

We have a rota of volunteers to fill up the bird feeder which has worked well. Following recent RSPB advice, we will stop using the seed feeder from the end of April until October in order to try to save the finches from trichomoniasis. We will continue to put up the fat balls over summer.

### Churchyard

Last July we had the botanic U3AC botanists to survey the churchyard and they found more than 40 species of plants including pyramidal orchid. Following a report from Suffolk Wildlife Trust there has been some discussion on the maintenance of the old part of the churchyard in order to maintain the diversity of the flowers. We are continuing to display photos of scenes from the churchyard and different plant species, (kindly donated by Viv Houghton,) on the display board funded by the Parish Council and can be found in the church.

Generally, in the village over the past year we have heard of 4 families of hedgehogs, bats flying, several species of butterfly and birds nesting. In Moulton Matters we have encouraged villagers to leave out water for the hedgehogs if it's dry.

Our current challenge has been the number of volunteers to help water the wild flowers and trees when it's dry. Although we have 12 active volunteers they are all committed in a number of directions and it is difficult to find a time that suits all, so we rarely have more than 4 helping with the maintenance of the areas at any one time. We will continue to ask for more volunteers in Moulton Matters and also publicise it at the village fete.

We're hoping to have a good display of colour in the village this summer attracting more insects and wild life, weather permitting!

Jeff and Anne Collins and Sarah Arnold  
Moulton Wildlife Group