

## Feldon Wildlife Group Meeting: 30<sup>th</sup> January 2024

Present: Ann Holland, Chris and Keri Carr, Nick Holmes, Milly Blake, Ally Blake, Jane Upson, Sue Rodger, Annie Lewis, Sue Williams, John Pym, Peter Stoddart, Harriet Granville, Jo Thompson, Barbara Babbage,

Apologies: Sylvia Bland, Paul Marriott, Amanda Holden

Minutes:

Wildflowers: The Parish Council was approached for funding for wildflowers but request turned down because a specific form needs to be completed but no one on the Parish Council has a copy of the form.

Jane has created a proposal to be taken forward to the Parish Council which she shared, requesting £150. Next Parish Council meeting 19<sup>th</sup> February.

This year first project is to plant wildflowers on the strip along the pathway by the Village Hall towards playground.

2<sup>nd</sup> project part of churchyard on the left hand side as you walk into the churchyard and then along the stone wall in front of Myrtle's house possibly next year.

Jo Barker has an annual fund that can be allocated throughout the year which we can apply for if the Parish Council turns down our application.

Want to offer free wildflower seeds to families who need it. Will advertise this through The Link.

10<sup>th</sup> February hedge coppicing by the playing field. David Sewell will be present and can discuss with him our plans and gain some feedback.

Will need to liaise with Jim about where to place turf that may be dug up.

Sue W has emailed Stretton on Fosse Wildlife Group to request where they got their mobile noticeboard from but has not heard back from them yet.

Hedgerow Survey: Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> April 10.30am. Milly will create poster to advertise the event in The Link, on the Village website and Facebook. Homemade cookies promised as enticement.

River bank picnic: Harriet happy for villagers to picnic in her paddock and Barbara happy for villagers to also visit Cherington Mill to view her wildlife projects but need to check insurance risk if someone fell into the river. Chris agreed to check insurance implications.

Village Hall Plan has been approved by trustees and has been submitted and the hedge coppicing will begin 10<sup>th</sup> February.

Chris to check when the new fence will be erected to secure the playground for children.

Village Hall need to seek funds to plant trees as per the plan now agreed. Peter agreed to research where funding can be obtained from. Villagers may be willing to donate trees to the project. Peter happy to lead in this respect. [petercstoddart@gmail.com](mailto:petercstoddart@gmail.com) Might be worth applying to the Cotswolds National Landscape see website because they're open now for funding applications [cotswolds-nl.org.uk](http://cotswolds-nl.org.uk) and the National Lottery.

RSPB Bird Watch: numbers slowly trickling through to Nick and he will share the results shortly. Next year may deliver the survey itself for people to complete.

Water Testing of the River Stour:

The village now has a testing kit. Cherington currently has the highest phosphate levels of all areas being tested.

23rd February meeting at the Village Hall between Barbara, Severn Trent Water and Nadhim Zahawi Local MP. Those involved with the river testing will be invited to attend.

Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> February meet to learn how to test water 10.30am at Barbara's house.

Volunteers needed to support the weekly testing.

Stretton Wildlife group visiting Blackwell Farm to see how it has been rewilded. Can arrange a separate walk for Feldons and WASPS around the farm in May and June. At March, April meeting need determine how many may want to visit.

Professor of Ecology at Oxford Uni Owen Lewis ([owen.lewis@biology.ox.ac.uk](mailto:owen.lewis@biology.ox.ac.uk)) agreed that some of his PHD students would be happy to speak to us about butterflies and moths. Either one evening or day. Sue R has his contact details to follow this up for the summer months. She agreed to make contact before next meeting to check how realistic this proposal is and what he could offer? Talk/ chance to catch and identify moths one evening?  
Sue still chasing this offer.

AOB:

John shared an interest in fungi but doesn't know what he's looking at. Suggested he's going to see if he can find someone who may be able to speak to us about mushrooms.

Sue R: Listens to Paddy O'Connell R4 Saturday morning and there was a moment of Eric Clubley chopping wood on national radio.

Cotswold ANOB article about wildflower field that the Distillery owns

Hedgehogs don't appear to be hibernating this year according to the group, many out seeking food.

Date of next meeting: 27<sup>th</sup> February