

Feldon Wildlife Group Meeting: 28th May 2024

Present: Chris and Kerri Carr, Ally Blake, Sue Rodger, Sue Williams, John Pym, Peter Stoddart, Sylvia Bland, Nick Holmes, Amanda Holden, Ann Holland, Jane Upson

Apologies: Jo Thompson, Milly Blake, Annie Lewis, Amanda Holden, Paul Marriott, Ian Beaumont

Minutes:

Wildflowers: In churchyard grass has been cut around the wildflower areas.
Seeds will hopefully be planted at the Village Hall by Gardening Group before end of May.
Seed patch planted by Family Blake in front of the wall surrounding their front garden.
Update from Jane: Paul has first planted area in churchyard and then the area will be mown and he will then plant for a second time.

Townsend's have been given a box of wildflowers for their grandson to plant on their land.

Sylvia shared card she received that can be planted to produce wildflowers (Mosney Mill)

ACTION POINT: Jane to action follow up planting of wildflowers by children in July and ask them to provide photos of plants for our noticeboard.

Noticeboard:

ACTION POINT: Sue will contact Erry to check where the board can be displayed permanently in the Village Hall. Kerri has agreed to create strap for top of board stating Feldon's noticeboard.

Peter offered to be noticeboard custodian.

Hedgerow Survey:

ACTION POINT: MB to send results to Di Marriott to post on website and send to Nick to load to google drive.

Next Hedgerow Survey: Sunday 6th October

River bank picnic: Sunday 8th September.

ACTION POINTS: Need to ask Harriet to attend the next meeting to confirm how the picnic in her garden is to be run.

Sue R has spoken to WWT in connection about otters and they will see if anyone has any knowledge of otters in their database of members

Milly and others possibly create quiz: Spot the wildlife

Focus on Harriet's paddock for the picnic and follow up with Barbara's grounds at a later date.

Village Hall Plan: Aspirational plan has been approved and should be permanently displayed at the Hall. Fencing continues to be an issue around the playground. Extension of car park to happen. Hedgerow won't be disturbed until after September.

Cotswold National Landscape attended the site 27th March to walk around and offer some guidance but have failed to put anything in writing.

Caring for Cotswolds suggested as a possible for funding but no funding to be released until end of year.

Heart of England Forestry: attended site and very helpful and awaiting report of funding and tree density available.

Might be worth applying to the National Lottery Community fund once we have an idea of cost and what trees might be suitable.

ACTION POINT: Peter still chasing Cotswold National Landscapes for a report of what trees and where to plant and the density and any subsidies available.

Bird Watch: Update from Nick: Blue Tits fledged over the weekend and swifts have returned but not nesting at Nick's. Kestrel has been spotted at the Church tower. Leamington peregrines falcons are now hatched and names being sought for them on line at Leamington Town Hall.

Swift talk at The Kiln Shed, Whichford Pottery Saturday 15th June 7.30pm

Water Testing of the River Stour: Weekly testing occurring and volunteers from the group are testing in pairs: Amanda, Nick, Ian, Sue R, Sue L, Barbara, Trevor and Annie, Chris and Kerri.

ACTION POINT: Milly will continue to contact volunteers weekly to schedule testing and testers to provide Milly with data for her to upload to River Avon database.

Issue with cows and calves now in Phillip's field. May need to consider testing at another site if cows become an issue.

Luke McCusker, a Senior River Ranger from Severn Trent Water has offered to organise testing the water on the following date: Sunday 23rd June 10-1pm Milly will update those interested nearer the time.

Blackdown Farm: **ACTION POINT:** Sue to contact the lady at Blackdown Farm which has been re-wilded to establish if we can visit independently as a group.

Professor of Ecology at Oxford Uni Owen Lewis (owen.lewis@biology.ox.ac.uk) agreed that he would be happy to leave moth traps in gardens overnight and then the following morning return and talk with the group about what has been trapped.

He suggested 7 - 8 June THIS DATE IS NOW CONFIRMED.

He will come Friday night at 8.30 with 4 traps. One needs mains electricity. Need to be near trees and in people's gardens. Ally, Sue W, John and Annie L happy to host. Meet Fri evening at village hall.

Traps will be opened by him at the Village Hall on Saturday June 8th, which is also a village coffee morning. Sue R has already told Christine this will be happening and we will support the coffee morning and Kerri will speak to Christine to check what help she needs.

ACTION POINT: Milly has designed poster to advertise for June moth reveal. Sue W 6, Sue R 10, John 1, Jane 8 flyers to deliver to families in the village. 2 posters on noticeboards Ally B. Plus invite WASPS for Saturday reveal Sue W

ACTION POINT: Owen Lewis happy to have bacon sandwiches and coffee Saturday morning. Sue R will buy a couple of bottles of wine as a thank you.

AOB

Katie Beswick at Little Bird Soap Shop in Shipston is a herbalist and would be prepared to talk to us potentially and has agreed that if Fred comes to speak about fungi then she would be able to promote the event and bring in interest. She will promote use of no pesticides.

ACTION POINT: John to speak to Katie and find out if there's a charge for her to talk.

At March meeting Chris updated the group about the distilleries wetlands ecological treatment system. Plants treating effluent from whiskey distillery.

ACTION POINT: Waiting for distillery to get in touch to suggest date to Chris for a social visit.

No Mow May: ACTION POINT: Take down notices on village greens on Friday 31st May

John has spoken to the gardener of The Cherington who is a member of the Wildflower Trust and they appear keen to have some involvement with the group at some point.

Flower Show: Lois Dudfield asked Sue R if we would like to have a stall at the Flower Show.

ACTION POINT: As a group consider what may be displayed at the Show. Paul L has kindly agreed to provide examples of a variety of items that can be created to promote wildlife.

SUBSCRIPTIONS: We still have names on our list of members who have not paid the £10 2024 subscription. Please take this as a final request for payment. Anyone who does not pay the £10 to either Sue Williams or Sue Rodger by the beginning of June will be taken off the list of members. Your support is needed if this Group is to continue.

Date of next meeting: Tuesday 25th June at 8 pm
(TRIALLING NEW TIME TO ENCOURAGE MORE TO ATTEND)