

## Feldon Wildlife Group Meeting: 25<sup>th</sup> June 2024

Present: Chris and Kerri Carr, Ally Blake, Peter Stoddart, Amanda Holden, Jane Upson, Jo Thompson, Paul Levitch, John Pym, Amanda Holden, Annie Lewis

Apologies: Sue Rodger, Sylvia Bland, Barbara Babbidge, Milly Blake, Paul Marriott, Ian Beaumont, Sue Williams

### Minutes:

#### Flower Show:

Paul L brought along examples of bat box and swift nesting box he had produced using untreated ply and rough sawn untreated timber. He has made 3 examples of each. Total cost of materials £45-50. Paul suggested taking commissions at the show and he would then kindly make the boxes and donate profits to the group. Next boxes selling on line for £30-40 each. Can also print instructions that people can take to produce their own if they would prefer. Designed so that they can be taken down to clean overwinter.

Need to put instructions with those we sell so that others know how to look after boxes and what they may be signing up to. If bats nest in them they cannot be disturbed!!!

Could ask individuals if they wish to sponsor a bat box that could be placed in the village.

Nesting boxes need to be at least 5.5 metres from the ground for swifts.

Kerri demonstrated butterfly feeders that she produced and suggested selling them at the flower show.

ACTION POINT: Sue R co-ordinating wildlife group at the show. Please can everyone happy to be involved with the show contact Sue R.

ACTION POINT: Need flyers to hand out on the day to anyone interested in the group stating when and where we meet and some of the activities we have been involved in this past year.

ACTION POINT: Ask children at the show if they have had any success with their wildflower seeds.

Wildflowers: In churchyard wildflower grass areas can now be cut and Paul will then resow the wildflowers.

Seeds have been planted at the Village Hall by Gardening Group and hopefully they will appear soon.

Seed patch planted by Family Blake in front of the wall surrounding their front garden has yet to appear. Currently hidden by long grass verge.

Jane's wildflowers are slowly germinating.

#### Noticeboard:

ACTION POINT: Peter Bland has agreed to create strap for top of board stating Feldon's noticeboard.

Peter S is noticeboard custodian and any notices can be given to Peter to display.

Hedgerow Survey:

ACTION POINT: Next Hedgerow Survey: Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> October

River bank picnic: Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> September. Noon till 3pm.

Numbers should not be an issue according to insurance company.

ACTION POINT: Milly liaise with Harriet to produce a quiz.

ACTION POINT: Milly to produce poster to display on noticeboards and flyers to handout to interested families at the flower show.

May consider having a running race and possibly a treasure hunt.

Could advertise through Brailes and Long Compton Schools in September.

ACTION POINT: Ask families to sign up at the Flower Show and leave their telephone numbers for contact in case it has to be cancelled due to weather.

Mike, Harriet's son, has offered to speak about the river Stour and its wildlife

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

Village Hall Plan: Fencing continues to be an issue around the playground because legally it needs to be in place to protect the children. Still awaiting clarification as to next steps with Jim Walton. Extension of car park to happen. Hedgerow won't be disturbed until after September.

Peter provided written report to all present outlining plan from Cotswold National Landscape and The Woodland Trust.

ACTION PLAN: Trustees of Village Hall need to confirm drainage issue solutions and the report can then be given to Jim Walton for his approval. Liaise with David Sewell ahead of approaching The Woodland Trust for free trees. Realistically this will be an action point for summer 2025.

Bird Watch: baby thrush at Carr's garden. Blackbirds still nesting.

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.

Thank you to Milly and all those from the group who kindly give up their time to regularly test the Stour.

Luke McCusker, a Senior River Ranger from Severn Trent Water unfortunately had to cancel his planned testing of the water on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> June . Milly will liaise with him and let the group know the revised date.

Blackdown Farm: ACTION POINT: Sue W 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](mailto:owen.lewis@biology.ox.ac.uk)) was really well received at the coffee morning discussing moths. Disappointing that not more children at the coffee morning. Need to keep encouraging all to be interested in wildlife. Huge thanks to Sue R for kindly organising the event which we all thoroughly enjoyed.

ACTION POINT: Bees possibly next focus. Brailes have a bee keeping group who it might be worth contacting to establish if they would be happy to give a talk.

ACTION POINT: Consider what other practical talks may be worth pursuing.

### AOB

Katie Beswick at Little Bird Soap Shop in Shipston is a medical herbalist and gave a tour for Big Green Week around Shipston. John really enjoyed the tour. He noted cherry and walnut trees in the car park by the River Stour. Nettle sting is helpful for arthritis apparently although not sure who has tried it!

ACTION POINT: John spoke to Katie and she said there's a £120 charge for her to talk to a group. Need to decide whether we might want to host either a walking tour or a talk at the village Hall or both.

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

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

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.

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 July will be taken off the list of members. Your support is needed if this Group is to continue.

Date of next meeting: Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> July at 8 pm  
(TRIALLING NEW TIME TO ENCOURAGE MORE TO ATTEND)