

Feldons Wildlife Group Meeting: Tuesday 28th January 2025 7 pm

Present: Barbara Babbage, Sue Williams, Ally Blake, Peter Stoddart, Nick Holmes, Annie Lewis, Sylvia Bland, Ann Holland, Harriet Granville

Apologies: Chris and Kerri Carr, Sue Rodger, Paul Marriott, John Pym, Amanda Holden

MINUTES:

Water Testing River Stour Update: Barabara B

Results showed that for 6 months last year raw sewage flowed straight into the river. As Barbara confirmed that raw sewage has been pumping into the river for the last 4 days

Friday 14th March 2025 Open Event in respect of Sewage Works. The following interested parties will be attending: Our MP Manuela Perteghella, Severn Trent Water, the Environment Agency, the Flood Group from Shipston and the Highway Agency. All who can attend are encouraged to. Barbara will update us nearer the date in respect of timing.

BB is focusing on ditches being dug out to help with the flow of water. She has kept her sluice gates open to help alleviate the build up of water.

Severn Trent have installed 2 temporary tanks to hold water but the amount they can take is limited.

It has been predicated that it will cost 10 million pounds to extend the sewage works.

It is one of the top 5 worst sites for the whole of the Severn Trent Network and one of the worst in Warwickshire.

Eels and otters in evidence upstream of the plant, sightings down stream of wildlife not confirmed.

Frog Migration:

Nick will keep us in touch with when he thinks frogs will be on the move. He predicts it will be first warm wet evening in February nearest Valentine's. The key temperature is a minimum night prediction of 5 degrees.

Sue W needs to let Frog Watch know we're planning to set up an approved frog crossing

Sarah Scotter happy for us to park in her drive and to let us take the signs and put them up as necessary.

Sue W to coordinate group to prevent frogs being hit and volunteered to go on frog watch website to download posters to display on village noticeboards.

She plans to contact Moreton Wildlife grp to ascertain how they got everyone out to help with migrating frogs in Todenham last year.

She will ask Christine to post on FaceBook and village website to ask volunteers to join us.

Ally brought high viz vests to meeting and distributed to those who plan to support initiative. Nick has latex gloves for volunteers to wear to prevent damaging the frogs. Volunteers will need a dustpan and brush to move frogs from one side of the road to the other if traffic approaching.

Possibly need 4 adults per night 5-7pm as people return from work.

RSPB Bird Watch: Weekend 25th-26th January

7 sets of results sent to Nick. Generally less birds than last year reported.

RSPB concerned at lack of finches.

Annie suggested using Finches Friend bird feeder designed specifically for finches and is squirrel proof and it stops build up of feed which is what leads to birds contracting diseases.

Plans for 2025:

Annie gave a list of suggestions of what we might like to discuss monthly to share our individual wildlife experiences in our own gardens/ walks in the local area. Group supportive of this idea.

FOCUS FOR FEBRUARY=Note any early nesting birds, share seeds and cuttings, planting for wildlife e.g. trees and shrubs for autumn winter berries and nectar. Annie kindly shared Echinops seeds with group.

Annie met up with a member of the SWAN group who spoke to us at the first Wildlife Group and they suggested us liaising with them to network and find out what's going on in other groups.

Sue R suggested asking David Sewell to speak to the group and Ally suggested asking him to lead a walk for us.

Sue W planning to contact Blackdown Farm for a group visit in the Spring/ summer

Ally contacted Shipston Bee keepers to ascertain if they would speak to us as a group to promote importance of bees and planting to support them. No response yet.

Harriet to attend next meeting to confirm plans for river bank picnic.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING Tuesday 25th February 7.00PM