

Minutes for Feldons Wildlife Group Meeting:

Tuesday 29th April 2025 7pm

Present: Ally Blake, Chris and Kerri Carr, Sue Rodger, Sue Williams, Harriet Granville, Nick Holmes, Jon Pym, Annie Lewis, Sylvia Bland, Amanda Holden, Ann Holland

Apologies: Jane Upson, Paul Marriott, Peter Stoddart, Ian Beaumont

EVENTS 2025

Sunday 27th April 2pm Shipston Herbalist Talk: Katie Beswick

All felt needed longer if we have a future walk. Everyone enjoyed the walk. Approx 20 attended. We made £30.

Weds 11th June Swift Talk

Swift talk with Jacey confirmed as Weds 11th June. Doors open from 7.30 Talk at 8pm. Talk for 45 minutes and then questions. Part of Big Green Week Shipston

Jacey will ask people at the talk if they would like to sign up for a swift walk in Cherington the following week, weather dependent.

ACTION AB: Advertise in the Link/ Feldon News/ Shipston Forum and put posters up in villages.

Peter S happy to bring laptop/ screen/ speakers for presentation and Nick offered to ensure all works on the night. Will also need our own wildlife noticeboard up on the evening.

ACTION: AH to find out if there's something particular Jacey might want as a thank you.

ACTION: SR to book hall formally for the night

Offer refreshments, and ask for donations. Bring swift nest boxes for sale once JJ agrees they are suitable.

Picnic at Harriet's – confirmed as Sunday 6th July as this is the date Mike can be present

Weather dependent. To be held in field by house leading down to river. Focus is children's afternoon tea party. Son in law Mike, happy to give short talk to those who attend. Parents responsible for their own children and dogs, - dogs to be kept on a lead.

Perhaps provide information for the children to take away on the day. Booklets and butterfly making kits suggested. Already purchased and held by Sue/ Kerri

Sue W said she would contact Fiona Nourse at Blackdowns Farm, Stretton on Fosse, re the possibility of a group walk sometime this spring/early summer. ATTENTION SUE.

Chris following up reed beds and wildflowers at Distillery at end of May.

David Sewell keen to take us on a nature walk at sometime. Possibility of him giving a talk in the winter about his wildlife experiences here and abroad. CHRIS happy to speak to him at end of May to discuss what he may be able to provide.

AB has agreed to take over uploading information to the River Stour from Barbara Babbage.

A.O.B.

SR going to book the Hall for another 6 months from September. No meeting in July/ August

Group share of wildlife in April

BB shared photo of grass snake in the Stour.

Tawny Owls continuing to mate loudly outside Nick's house

Hérons noted in various locations around the villages

Nick and Alison have lots of tadpoles in their ponds but poor John has none!

Sarah Scotter has a great number of tadpoles in her ponds thanks to our efforts.

SR highlighted that we shouldn't move tadpoles from one pond to another.

Lamium with variegated leaves brought in by Annie who shared it is a really good pollinator which covers good ground cover. If anyone wants any please ask Annie.

Hover flies are the 2nd most effective pollinator after bees and often people mistake hover flies for bees and hornets. Lots of different sorts of hover flies. Top 5 plants for hover flies are blackberry, heathers, ivy, guelder rose, fiddleneck (green manure)

SR opened her wood burner and a big bumble bee and recently a large hornet came out covered in soot.

Watch out for Asian hornets which have previously been spotted in the village and if one is spotted should be reported using the Asian Hornet Watch app.

Red kites have been flying low locally but are supposed to only take carrion however, Annie reported two deposited a mauled bantam chicken in her garden recently!

SW's gardener has a client who has chopped down a huge old tree and Sue now has a large number of bees around the log donated to her by the gardener, obviously attracted to the remains of an old bees nest which must have been in the tree. SW has two hedgehogs visiting her feeder every evening and they are happy to feed in there together, which indicates that they are related.

Next Meeting on Tuesday 27th May at 7.00pm

PLEASE SEND ITEMS FOR THE AGENDA TO ALLY BLAKE allyblake67@gmail.com