

Edgmond Wildlife Group - Report for Edgmond APM

The Group was formed in the Spring of 2020 when a few residents came together to try to do something about improving the local natural environment and biodiversity. The common thread running through the Group is a desire to work with local people to make our local environment more diverse and therefore better for wildlife and people.

We are now a year old, so here is a summary of what we have achieved so far:

- We are proud to have a management agreement in place with the Trustees of the Church Field to improve biodiversity and encourage access for local people. With the help of Edgmond Hall we have instigated a more sensitive mowing regime to help encourage more wildlife; we are planning a meadow area and have planted native shrubs. Protective matting for the Church overflow parking has been installed and we have even made a gate (with local help). We have launched a wildflower growing group of 20 or so people who are growing wildflowers from seeds for transplanting onto the Church Field later this year.
- We have built a website and have tried to engage with as many people as possible using various social media platforms. We have regular updates on what you can see and what has been seen locally, as well as articles on conservation issues.
- During the summer we organised work parties to pull out the rapidly encroaching Himalayan Balsam that was spreading up from the Strine. Whilst we hope that there will be fewer plants this year the brilliant hard work of our Himalayan Balsam gang will continue. Both Edgmond Hall and Harper Adams University were very complimentary about the work undertaken.
- We continue with our work in the Edgmond Hedgehog Conservation Area, supporting a growing number of people who are providing hedgehog friendly gardens, hedgehog hibernation/breeding boxes and making hedgehog highways.
- We hope to work beyond our village boundaries in the near future and engage in projects on local farms. We have started liaising with Wall Farm, on the Weald Moors, about becoming more involved in their conservation work.
- We have invested a lot of time in applying for grants. Money has been raised to support our practical conservation work and to support family and adult educational activities. We aim to provide a series of events in the future, such as moth and bat spotting, plus

we will be putting out a call for help with various practical activities during the summer.

Our membership is now at 50, but we'd love to have more - membership details are on Facebook and on our website. There are also leaflets in the box beneath the display board on the Church Field. The more members we have, the more we can do to encourage a more wildlife-friendly approach across the whole parish.

Thank you.