

EDGMOND WILDLIFE GROUP

REPORT FOR THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING – 2023

It's been a busy year for Edgmond Wildlife Group, and we're delighted to report that we now have over 120 individual members.

We'd like to thank everyone who has helped on work parties, attended local walks and events, or just supported us by being a member. Thank you! The past year has involved us in the following events and activities:

- We continue to maintain and monitor the increasingly beautiful green space that the Church Field has become.
- We have organised short local wildlife walks for members and enjoyed hosting a long 'Wildlife Weekend' back in June.
- We joined the fun at last year's successful village fete and brought a version of pond-dipping to share some of the wonders of the hidden world below the water.
- We have liaised with the Parish Council and Telford & Wrekin Council to improve the biodiversity of the playing field area by shrub planting and requesting wider areas of long grass.
- We are continuing to control the invasive (and non-native) Himalayan Balsam on land belonging to Edgmond Hall and HAU. This is proving to be very successful and, for many of us, extremely therapeutic!
- We have developed very friendly links with St Peter's School to help them to improve their Wildlife Area – this has involved clearing out the pond, pruning some trees, cutting hedging, planting new shrubs and plants, and relocating the children's benches. There is more work to do, and we have put out a call for a local sponsor to perhaps help fund roof repairs to the gazebo. Both the children and staff at St Peter's are already noticing the improvement of wildlife at the school.
- We have further developed a strong and positive relationship with HAU and have raised our profile at the University by supporting both staff and students out in the field. Our contribution to the English Winter Bird surveys and the Common Bird Census has been extremely rewarding and beneficial to the University. Our joint hedge & tree planting work parties continue to improve the local environment.
- We have acted as a voice for the many people who were unhappy about changes to access on HAU land, and, together with the PC, have successfully proposed a solution that has been adopted by HAU.

Improving biodiversity is at the heart of our projects. Our website has many articles on how YOU can help nature in your gardens. Never has this help been more important. With the staggering loss of invertebrates over the last few decades this can only lead to further reductions in species further up the food chain.

Three things you can do for nature – leave some long grass in your garden, leave a pile of dead wood, make a pond ... and watch the wildlife return!

Diary Date: 23RD – 25TH JUN – WILDLIFE WEEKEND

Paula Doherty (Secretary) 07 May 2023