

Report to Risby Parish Council Wildlife Friendly Village Group

This year the Wildlife Friendly Village group has scaled back its outreach activities. This has been due to a combination of factors, including the reduction of wild areas on the Greens and increased work and home commitments among group members.

Despite these challenges, we have continued to contribute positively where we can. We have maintained our regular monthly articles in the Parish magazine, helping to keep awareness of wildlife-friendly issues. In addition, we have continued the upkeep of the planters around the village hall and we planted spring bulbs in the wildflower spiral, resulting in snowdrops and native daffodils in flower this spring. With these small efforts, we are helping to ensure these areas remain beneficial for local biodiversity.

Alongside our shared efforts, members continue to support wildlife within our own gardens. We hope that, collectively, these small actions will contribute—however modestly—to addressing the ongoing nature and climate crises and we urge councillors and residents to understand and acknowledge that these issues are only worsening. Current estimates suggest that around one in six species are at risk of extinction, and the UK has seen significant declines in biodiversity, with habitat loss, climate change, and pollution continuing to place pressure on ecosystems, food security and water security that affect us all.

Looking ahead, we plan to refresh the painted logs around the wildflower spiral, as the existing paint has faded over time. We hope to organise communal workshops to carry out this work, providing an opportunity for local residents to get involved.

We have also begun discussions on the possibility of installing an automatic watering system for the village hall planters, which would help ensure their ongoing maintenance, particularly during drier periods.

Finally, we would like to express our gratitude for the continued support of the Village Hall committee for the planters and the wild areas on their land and to the Parish Council for the Wildflower spiral and mowing around the remaining wildflowers on the Greens.

Wildlife Friendly Village Group