



Wingrave  
with Rowsham  
PARISH COUNCIL

## Report to Wingrave with Rowsham PC

From WILD

March 2023

### Spring bulbs

Planted as part of Kirby Grant. Snowdrops, aconites and bluebells. Some showing in Mill Lane, Leighton Road, in Jubilee wood and Church Street. However, the acid test is in 2024. Will they reappear?

Large numbers of daffodils planted in Rectory field by resident.

### Wildflowers

A successful talk on 22/2/23, 45 attendees. Propose to plant wild flowers on the patch on Rec near opposite Mill Lane entrance. D of E opportunity for student(s) at MacIntyre School to dig it over and plant. Jan and other WILD members will care for it.

Looking for residents of Elm Leys to work with us to establish wild flowers in some the space around the estate.

### Trees

We are awaiting planting from Bucks before going further with the programme of seeking more sites.

### Hedge at Park

Paul Blissett will start work this week if weather favourable. Work party organised for Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> March to shred what we can and use thicker stuff as a wildlife pile – unless bonfire is acceptable?

### Governance

We are planning to set ourselves up as an entity with a Bank Account and AGM / officers. Looking for suitable AGM opportunity.

### Bird song walk

Next event will be an early evening bird song walk in early May, led by John Dowling.

### Newts

Some residents are concerned that people are unaware of their responsibility to safeguard great crested newts. Wingrave, particularly Parsonage Farm area, is a stronghold for this endangered species.

Here is the legal position:

***Great crested newts***

*Great crested newts and their habitats are fully protected under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended). Therefore it is illegal to deliberately capture, injure, kill, disturb or take great crested newts or to damage or destroy breeding sites or resting places. Under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended) it is illegal to intentionally or recklessly disturb any great crested newts occupying a place of shelter or protection, or to obstruct access to any place of shelter or protection (see the legislation or seek legal advice for full details). Buckinghamshire Council have a statutory duty in exercising of all their functions to 'have regard, so far is consistent with the proper exercise of those functions, to the purpose of conserving biodiversity', as stated under section 40 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006 (NERC). As a result GCN and their habitats are a material consideration in the planning process.*

We need to find ways of letting people know that they need to take care in their gardens if they are in an area where newts breed.

Jan Walmsley