

Wild Norley

Think Global - Act Local

January and February

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ALL NATURE HAS A FEELING

*All nature has a feeling: woods, fields, brooks
Are life eternal: and in silence they
Speak happiness beyond the reach of books;
There's nothing mortal in them; their decay
Is the green life of change; to pass away
And come again in blooms revived.
Its birth was heaven, eternal is its stay,
And with the sun and moon shall still abide
Beneath their day and night and heaven wide.*
By John Clare

Happy New Year everyone, I hope you had a Merry Christmas and are now ready to do your bit for wildlife in the coming year. Whatever optimism engendered by COP 28 must be tempered by the reality that we are in a crisis already with climate change, loss of habitat and humanity's already unsustainable activities precipitating a sixth level extinction. Our strapline "Think global - Act local" may be simplistic but is an entirely valid and logical approach.

So we cannot afford to stop striving at the very least to maintain biodiversity in the village. Our website will I'm certain aid us in this endeavour, and thanks to our Parish Council for funding the bulk of its cost. But with the cost of hosting etc we find ourselves some £300 adrift. So like Wikipedia it would be great if say £2.00 or so could be donated (NWG tube in The Stores) the first time you log on or a larger sum via our treasurer Sheila Hills sheila@sheilahills.plus.com

In mentioning Sheila I want to acknowledge and pay tribute to her role in NWG, until quite recently she was an active member. A debilitating illness has curtailed this but has not stopped her being the keystone of our finances, indefatigable is an understatement.

Another vital person in NWG I'd like to pay tribute to, is our Secretary Madeline French who has re-energised Habitat mapping, a critical task (see our website, *Norley and its wildlife*) into a formidable programme.

And particular thanks also must go to Roger Goulding, CWACs Green Infrastructure Team Leader. He has been an absolute star on a number of Biodiversity net gain projects in the Parish eg the Waste, where to conserve it for Great Crested Newts (GCNs) he provided the funds for the plan's first phase, donating wildflower seeds and a promise of further help and support.

Thanks too to our Parish Council and our three ward councillors who paid for the second phase with a circular path. The lovely seat was provided by Jill West, the late Chris Proudfoot's partner. Chris was to have overseen the work so his beloved GCNs could thrive and prosper. In a moving ceremony last year at the Waste, Jill asked me to say the transformation of the Waste denoted to her both life and hope, I said I just knew Chris would've given it and us, his blessing. At her request I read *All*



Nature has a feeling, a favourite poem of Chris, (and now one of mine) whenever you visit the Waste, recall the words and as the plaque on the seat requests
"Sit a while and feel the peace, in loving memory of Chris Proudfoot".

Last year NWGs collaboration with other bodies involved with wildlife increased greatly e.g. CWAC, Cheshire Wildlife Trust, Record and Chester Zoo – networks for nature. In regard to the latter, NWG was very pleased to have been awarded a "Champions in conservation award". Part of the award was on the basis of our website. In turn everyone aided by it could become a champion in their own right.



OTHER NEWS

The lifetime opportunity of a biodiversity net gain with 20 acres of Sandycroft Farm will be set out in detailed information on the website.

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