

TOAD PATROLS

Early in the new year, we'll be watching carefully for any signs of the annual Toad migration around the Cow Lane, Bag Lane and Moss Lane areas of Norley. The migration usually starts in the evenings around February and can last until April and usually occurs on damp and warm nights with temperatures above 10 degrees.

Toads will hibernate a considerable distance from the ponds they were born in and as they return back to these ponds to breed, this often results in many being killed by cars, where roads cross their migration path.

Due to the close location of wildlife ponds in this area, the above lanes in Norley are registered as amphibian migratory crossings with the Department of Transport and we organise evening crossing patrols to move the Toads off the lanes and take them to safety. We have around 20 local volunteers who last year rescued some 2,500 toads and a few newts and frogs so if you fancy helping, please email neil.holding@hotmail.com or ring on [07715 981195](tel:07715981195) and we can register you for insurance purposes with the charity Froglife. You would need a good torch, high viz jacket, bucket, a lot of patience and a good sense of humour!

WILDFLOWER MEMORIAL WALK

Our walk coordinators were busy in 2025 working on new information boards and banners for the walk at both St John's Church and the Village Hall. They also arranged a wreath-making evening at the Tiger's Head in December

to decorate the wreaths which are put up on each of the plaques over the Christmas period.

Why not take the opportunity to have a look at the information boards and walk around the 12 plaques in the village which honour the Norley men who gave their lives in the Great War? See <https://www.wildnorley.com/wildflower-walk/> for more details and a map. Paper copies of the map are also available at The Stores.

Getting together to celebrate our much-loved Wildflower Memorial Walk

It's now more than ten years since the Wildlife Memorial Walk was conceived. The Walk imagines sights seen by the Norley men who gave their lives in the Great War and commemorates them with plaques and plantings of wild flowers.

The artwork – information boards, one or two plaques and banners – has, over the decade, succumbed to the elements. Through the generous contributions of individuals keen to support the Walk and with help from our Cheshire West & Chester Ward Councillors we've been able to replace and update the artwork.

To mark the occasion, we convened at the Village Hall for a photo opportunity. On show were displays demonstrating the work we're currently undertaking including habitat mapping and our work on mosses and meres. The sun shone – briefly – and Bob (Jones) did a splendid job of corralling us to take the commemorative shots. Much cake and coffee were later consumed in the Hall.

Thanks to all who supported the maintenance, and to those who were able to attend the event including our

Ward Councillor, Gillian Edwards, Deryn O'Connor, Chair, Norley Parish Council and our amazing artist Ann Crawford.



See Item in red below for inclusion here if space permits, otherwise leave out.

WORKDAYS

We will be organising workdays for 2026. These will be at the Memorial Garden, Flaxmere, Wickentree, the Wild Wood (St John's) and Brines Moss amongst other sites. Please watch out on NWG and Norley Village Facebook pages for details or contact us on Info@wildnorley.com. We would love you to join us.

The Team at Norley Wildlife Group

NORLEY WILDLIFE MAP – GARDEN SHOW RESULTS

Many thanks to all those who visited the
NWG stand at the Norley Garden Show

in September and added to our Wildlife
Map. This year we had 51 wildlife tags
pinned on the map, our highest so far.

Here are the results for 2025:

Area of Norley	Wildlife	Area of Norley	Wildlife
Delamere Forest	Adder	Town Farm Lane	Greater Spotted Woodpecker
	Buzzard	Post Office Lane	Comma Butterfly
	Red Kite		Gatekeeper Butterfly
Kingsley / Guest Slack	Bat		Grass Snake
	Pheasant		Red Fox
	Red Kite		Shaded Broad-bar Moth
	Shrew	School Lane	Buzzard
Delamere Park	Hare		Cockchafer Beetle
	Red Fox		Starling
Marsh Lane	Barn Owl		Swallow
	Kestrel		Weasel
	Greater Spotted Woodpecker	Forest Lane	Kingfisher
Fingerpost Lane	Red Fox		Yellow Wagtail
West View Road / The Waste	Blue Tit	Delamere Road	Barn Owl
	Buzzard		Buzzard
	Coal Tit		Green Woodpecker
	Goldfinch		Common Hawker
	Grasshopper		Nuthatch
	Great Crested Newt		Red Fox
	Great Tit		Red Kite
	Greenfinch		Sparrowhawk
	Stock Dove	Flaxmere	Grass Snake
	Toad	Hatchmere	Jay
Norley Lane	Bat		

Badgers were also seen in several locations