

Norley Wildlife Group
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As parts of Cheshire saw almost 300% more rainfall than the average in September, we are all hoping for some drier days as we lead up to Christmas. The weather has seen water levels remain high and, whilst this is great for ponds and their wildlife inhabitants, it can be detrimental to those living off the surrounding areas. So, remember to keep feeding our birds and other wildlife as the weather starts to cool.

However, the weather has not stopped us from doing some great work in and around Norley. The team have been hard at work and many thanks go to all our members and volunteers who help in many ways throughout the year. We could not do all the projects we have done without the help from our community.

Norley Wildlife Group need YOU

We are preparing our plans for 2025, and we need your help. The more hands we have to help means we can do more for our local wildlife and their habitats. We have many roles within the group, and most need no more than a couple of hours a month. Roles include:

- * Wildlife Memorial Walk Coordinator
- * Events Coordinator - Norley Garden Show, WI Plant Swap etc
- * Memorial Garden Development Team
- * Norley Commons Coordinators

If you would rather just come and help with some gardening / maintenance, then we have many jobs to do, and any extra help would be fantastic. For more information on any of these volunteering opportunities please contact us.



NWG joined Chester City Nature Challenge

Norley Wildlife Group participated in the Chester City Nature Challenge 2024. This was combined with the NWG annual Common's Walk on Sunday 28th April. Although all the smaller commons in Norley were visited on the walk, the nature challenge, which uses the iNaturalist app to identify wildlife species and record data, focused on The Waste on West View Road, Norley. At the Waste the pond and surrounding area has been recovered into a beautiful wildlife area with a path and bench to allow anyone to enjoy the site. A total of 37 identifications of 26 species of wildflowers and trees were made at the Waste contributing to the Chester City Nature Challenge total observations.

Houndslough Farm Visit with Forestry England

We arranged a walk around the area of Houndslough Farm purchased by Forestry England and recently developed into an extension of Delamare Forest incorporating broad-leaved woodland, conifer dominant mixed woodland, a seed stand, planted wetland/ pond area, hedgerows managed for wildlife and wood meadow.



Memorial Garden Update October

Richard and Phil worked really hard and virtually all the grass has now been cut and the wildflower areas mown. They left the teasels and a few bits of mallow, branches overhanging the heap were removed to improve access but it's now rather exposed. However, some flowering shrubs planted in front will soon grow, look colourful and provide some sustenance for wildlife. The cyclamen can now be seen in their full glory.

Flaxmere Work Day

NWG worked with the CWAC volunteer team led by Chris Moseley to clear birch saplings from the moss. This was to help maintain this beautiful moss and SSSI / RAMSAR site in Norley. It was noticed that there is more heather coverage than in previous years which suggests that despite a wet year it indicates a drier moss.



Garden Surveys and Map

Thank you to everyone who contributed to both the Garden Survey and our Wildlife Map at the Garden Show. It was great to see so many species seen across our area. You can see a full report on our Facebook and website pages.

Forthcoming Events:

11th November 11.15am

Poppy Crosses walk – This follows after the wreath laying Ceremony on Remembrance Sunday at the Tommy at St Johns the Evangelist. Poppy crosses joining the WI's knitted poppies are placed at the three Commonwealth War Graves and the 11 plaques on the Wildflower Memorial Walk.

21st November 8pm

Norley Wildlife Group **AGM** – come along and hear about what we have planned for 2025 and how you can help. Location will be announced soon.

Thanks again to everyone who has helped our wildlife and their habitats this year. We hope you all have a fabulous Christmas and New Year.

The Team at Norley Wildlife Group