

Wild Norley



Think Global - Act Local

September and October

Phil Gifford - Chair of Norley Wildlife Group (NWG)
07846 585970 Email: ansellpgifford@gmail.com or
info@wildnorley.com

*What can I say that I have not said before?
So I'll say it again. The leaf has a song in it.
Stone is the face of patience.*

*Inside the river there is an unfinishable story
and you are somewhere in it and it will never end until all
ends.*

*Take your busy heart to the art museum and the chamber
of commerce but take it also to the forest.*

*The song you heard singing in the leaf when you were a
child is singing still.*

*I am of years lived, so far, seventy-four, and the leaf is
singing still.*

"What Can I Say" from Swan by Mary Oliver

My original title for this article was rather apocalyptic, *Autumn the season of mists and mellow fruitfulness - but for how much longer?*

The season came upon us almost without warning, and now it seems just as likely there will be polar blasts or a sudden heat wave. All of our seasons seem to have become disrupted. The cold wet spring gave a severe check to butterflies and many Norleyans have noticed there has been a worrying dearth of both butterflies and both solitary and bumblebees. But poor spring weather is just part of the global insectageddon which I have mentioned in several previous articles

See <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/article/2024/jul/13/butterflies-summer-absence-british-spring-decline-insects>

All part of climate change but Susana Muhamad the president of the UN biodiversity Cop 16 summit in Cali this October, has rightly stated,

"There is a double movement humanity must make. The first one is to decarbonise and have a just energy transition. The other side of the coin is to restore nature and allow nature to take again its power over planet Earth so that we can really stabilise the climate".

See <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/article/2024/aug/22/nature-catastrophe-biodiversity-summit-president-carbon-emissions-climate-breakdown-susana-muhamad-aoe>

As part of us 'thinking global but acting local', NWG's objectives are to prevent habitat deterioration and make improvements to enable wildlife to survive and thrive both now and for future generations but to do this everyone in the village, NWG, our Parish Council, Norley landowners and residents all need to work together.

But doom and gloom which often seems to be the "Global" message can make us feel everything is hopeless. I think things in Norley are now better for wildlife and for us too. So Mary Oliver's poem reminded me that delighting in the natural world, the sheer joy of life, is a key motivator for me and many. Like

Mary I am now seventy – four and the leaf is singing still.

A form for our Autumn Garden survey is opposite. Please return it to Sheila Hills, 15 School Bank or The Stores or you can go to <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/BX26SS7> - this will also go on our Facebook page. We will produce a digest of the results over the past few seasons showing the type of habitats and wildlife.

Many of us too are all looking forward to seeing how the wildflowers on the Sandycroft Fields/Meads develop. More are to be sown and the hedges cut in September with a view to ensure they remain good for wildlife. I jumped the gun a bit last month, for although the Parish Council is to consult about paths, access, signage, community orchard etc, this will not take place until later.

To do our job NWG is ever wanting help, both in the form of volunteers for workdays and then money, firstly to get public liability insurance, fees for website etc and then for particular projects some of which are set out below.

1. *The Memorial Garden – wildlife haven with log pile, bird boxes, bat boxes etc Wildflower/grass seeds have been sown including yellow rattle which reduces the growth of grass allowing other wildflowers to flourish. Lots to do here.*



HARD AT WORK - MEMORIAL GARDEN



YELLOW RATTLE

2. *The Waste – this now has a path and a bench to see the restored pond, which we hope Great Crested newts will flock to. Local residents the Westsiders are maintaining this now.*

3. *Brech Moss – sadly we are still trying to re-establish the drainage of the ditch but the tree removal has allowed a glimpse*

into its future restoration.

4. Flaxmere Moss – Natural England have been asked to consider what it can do to help conserve this precious SSSI. CWAC's Green space ranger with his team of volunteers are to visit on Thursday 26th September for tree bramble removal for maintenance of the moss. Help will be welcome.



AUTUMN GARDEN SURVEY (1st September - 31st October 2024)

Norley Wildlife group are collecting information from gardens in the Parish to help identify the type of habitats and wildlife present in Norley.

1. Name and Contact Details (Optional)

2. Location - Street Name and Postcode

3. What size is your garden?

Small Medium Large

4. Which of the following features do you have in your garden?

Trees Pond Hedge

Compost heap Flower bed

Lawn Other

5. Which of the following have you seen in your garden this quarter?

Badger Bat Fox Frog

Grass snake Hedgehog Newt

Slow Worm Toad Other

6. Which birds have you seen in your garden this quarter?

Blackbird Blue Tit Coal Tit

Great Tit Long-tailed Tit

Chaffinch Goldfinch Greenfinch

5. Wickentree Moss – we were here in July for the removal of saplings, bramble and bracken. Lots more to do.
6. Brines Moss (Sandycroft Farm) Himalayan balsam bashing - not quite eradicated yet but a good start.
7. Bratt's Bank, Gazebo and Yearsley Lane – are all future projects. A meeting to discuss Gazebo has been deferred till next year.

Donations via the NWG "tube" at The Stores, or contact our treasurer Sheila Hills sheila@sheilahills.plus.com

OTHER NEWS

I hope you visited us at our stand at the Garden Show? There will be another WI/NWG pop-up seed/plant donation in 2025 for lots more ideas for wildlife friendly activities you can try at home. See "how you can help" on our website.

I'm getting the Flaxmere bees ready for winter, treating them for Varroa, feeding them syrup in recompense for taking their honey. "For summer has o'er-brimm'd their clammy cells." More of which will be available at The Stores.

Dunnock House Sparrow
 Jackdaw Magpie Nuthatch
 Pigeon Collared Dove Robin
 Song Thrush Wren Other

7. Tick any of the following that you provide for birds and animals in your garden.

Food Water Bird box
 Owl Box Bat Box
 Hedgehog Home Other

8. Are there birds nesting in your garden this quarter?

Yes No

9. Which butterflies have you seen in your garden this quarter?

(Download chart at <https://bigbutterflycount.butterfly-conservation.org/about>)

Small Tortoiseshell Small White
 Large White Common Blue
 Speckled Wood Painted Lady
 Comma Holly Blue Gatekeeper
 Small Copper Peacock
 Green Veined White Red Admiral
 Brimstone Silver Y Ringlet
 Marbled White Meadow Brown
 Six Spot Burnet Jersey Tiger