



Welcome to our fourth Biodiversity and Environment Volunteers’ Newsletter! Our “*Connecting our Communities with Nature*” action plan moves into its second year with new applications for funding from Natural Networks, Malvern Hills National Landscape Partnership and Cllr Christine Wild, and building on the habitat and community engagement projects achieved with their generous funds last year.

As ever, this is to update you about some of these projects and also provide information about local environmental events and seasonal helpful biodiversity enhancement ideas.

We also want to thank the BEVs that are making all this happen! This is a real community-led and delivered action plan and we are so grateful for the skills, enthusiasm and time that so many of you are giving to all the projects.

Best Wishes, Sue Haywood

Parish Council Volunteer Biodiversity and Environment Officer
(volunteer)

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Our environment and biodiversity projects have been made possible with the generous support received from:



Public Green Spaces

The surveys in the cemetery have begun! Starting with the flora, and with gratefully received support and advice from Lorna, Neil and Lissie, a small but determined group of BEVs have started braving the hot weather and are developing or re-finding their fieldwork skills to help us understand what plantlife we have on this site. A section has been left as unmown meadow during the summer for us to understand what species might still be present, but is being suppressed by mowing. The survey will continue for a full year and the results will be used to help the parish council understand how best to manage the grassland in the future.

Very grateful ongoing thanks to the dedicated BEVs who are continuing to tend our new native hedgerow plants and also the sculptures in the cemetery during these heatwaves and dry spells.

The bird and bat boxes and insect houses have also been erected at various locations on public green spaces by yet further BEVs. Although too late for this season, they hopefully will provide some shelter this winter and nesting/roosting opportunities next year.

New projects planned for this autumn in our green spaces include some further native species hedge planting, more wildflower turf, and also sowing native wildflower seeds. The last of these is likely to be a community volunteer activity – more details on how to get involved if this could be of interest in our next newsletter!



A further sculpture? Comments received have been really positive about the new sculptures in the cemetery. We may be able to commission a further sculpture for elsewhere in the parishes, in 2026 or 2027. Would you like to see another sculpture, and - if so - where? And of what? **Your thoughts on this gratefully received – please contact srhaywood@gmail.com!**



Finally - the fruit is plentiful in Pursers Orchard at the heart of the village! Don't forget to collect some delicious plums, pears and apples while they are at their best, and enjoy this beautiful space. There are benches for picnics and meandering paths through the orchard to gently walk and take a moment to relax.

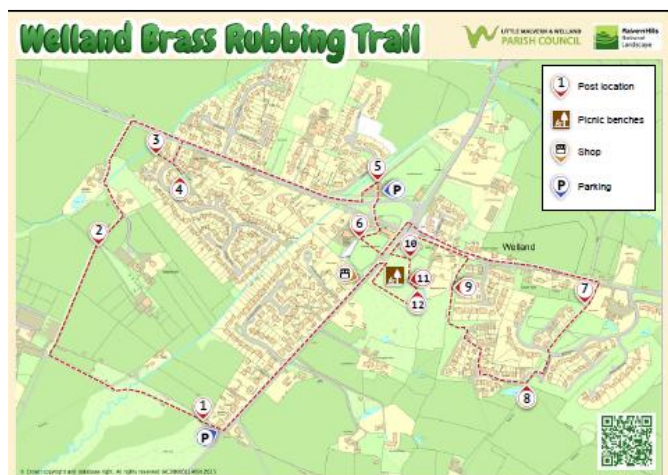
Water Courses and Ponds

Many thanks to those of you who may have signed up again for the Autumn 2025 Earthwatch national water testing survey.

If you haven't already let us know if you have signed up, please can you do so asap so we can coordinate our testing again to give us an idea of the health of some of our local streams and ponds. Many thanks!

Footpaths

The parish council have been working on improving the accessibility of our local footpaths. With further improvements planned between now and mid 2026, the footpaths improved to date are already being well used by joggers and walkers.



Our nature activity trail is completed! With the footpath upgrades, this has enabled an engaging, family-friendly, circular trail route around Welland village. Please do come to explore it with family and friends this summer! It's also not too late for kids in the community to enter our competition. More information can be found at [Brass Rubbing Trail – Little Malvern and Welland Parish Council](#).

Also, please may we bring one of our beautiful local SSSIs to your attention? Kevin Hammet, the owner of Malt House Farm Meadow, has kindly said that visitors are welcome to leave the PRoW that crosses the meadow – but please respect the value of the site. For more information, please see [Local SSSI worth visiting! – Little Malvern and Welland Parish Council](#).

Community Engagement

Following the enthusiastic feedback received about our family environment event in the Easter holidays, we are planning another for the October half term, on Sunday 2nd November. A number of you have already kindly said you could help, but further volunteers would be warmly welcomed. We need a few more for on the day itself and maybe just one or two more please for advance planning. **Please contact Sue Haywood (srhaywood@gmail.com) if you might be able to spare a couple of hours.**

The parish council is also continuing to support engagement with nature at home. As we did for the Easter holidays, children at the school and pre-school were given packs containing spotter sheets, nature themed colouring pages and information about the nature trail and a packet of crayons to help them and their responsible adults get out and about in our local landscape this summer.

Finally, as well as volunteering for BEV projects, there are a number of other ways of volunteering in Little Malvern and Welland parishes that help our environment, green spaces and community wellbeing, such as the Litter Picking Team and also the Pursers Orchard group. More information on these and other volunteering opportunities can be found at [Volunteering – Little Malvern and Welland Parish Council](#)

Some events coming up that may be of interest:

- **Local Environment Talks**

- Castlemorton: Castlemorton's next excellent environmental talks is 25th September and will be about butterflies!

- For more information, please see [Butterfly Talk – Castlemorton Environmental Group](#)

- The Hanleys also have a talk coming up - *A Wildlife Pond for all Seasons - Create a sustainable pond for the enjoyment of all the wildlife in your garden with help from local expert Biddi Kings (Merebrook Water Plants)*. Thursday 4 September 2025 at 7.30pm, Hanley Swan Village Hall. Tea and coffee available from 7.00.

- **BEV Drop in Coffee and Chat– 4-5pm 25th August Bank holiday Monday in Pursers Orchard.**

- If you are free, this is an informal opportunity to say hello to other BEVs, find out more about some of the projects that have happened and that are planned, and have a cuppa. Drop in for a few minutes or stay the hour – Sue will be in Pursers Orchard with a flask of coffee and some biscuits.