



Welcome to our fifth Biodiversity and Environment Volunteers' Newsletter!

A bit of a gap since my last one with apologies. However, although I may have been out of action for a while, our lovely hard working BEVs and parish councillors have progressed lots of amazing projects within our “*Connecting our Communities with Nature*” action plan, as you’ll read here.

A key part of what we do also includes collaborating with environmental groups and councillors in neighbouring parishes to enable us to support each other with our nature and climate action projects.

As ever, this newsletter is to update you about some of these projects and also provide information about local environmental events and seasonal helpful biodiversity enhancement ideas. If you want to join in with any of the projects and activities, do get in touch!

### Best Wishes for a restful Easter break

**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 are starting up again and will go through this year into the autumn. If you would like to get involved with this and join our dedicated little survey team of BEVs, you would be very welcome! No previous experience needed – there are field guides available and we have experts in our team who would be able to show you what to look for and how to record it.

Some beautiful flowering trees and more dog roses have been planted in the cemetery this winter. As we move into warmer drier weather, these new trees and the young hedgerow plants put in last year will need a bit of TLC and we would be grateful if we can call on the BEV Watering Crew again please! Again, new additional members would be welcomed for this important work, enabling these plants to survive and add beauty and important biodiversity value to this tranquil and special site. This year we have bought new hoses and installed (thanks to a much valued volunteer!) a double tap so hopefully the task will be much easier and with a good number of people involved on a roster, it will mean minimal time commitment.



As well as the new planting and beautiful sculptures, the cemetery is also boasting our lovely new interpretation board, giving information about its history, nature and context of the site.

Elsewhere in the village, look out for the new wildflower turf next to the parish hall and along Mick’s Way, the new footpath between Pippin Drive and Drake Street) and also wildflower seeds sown on the eastern edge of Spitalfields. There is some top-up sowing on both these sites scheduled for Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April if anyone wants to get involved! (Meet at Spitalfields at 10am).

Finally, you may see some verges being left uncut for longer this year. In order to reduce our carbon footprint and also increase biodiversity, we are working to change our mowing regime in the parish. Bear with us as we work to get the balance right on this.



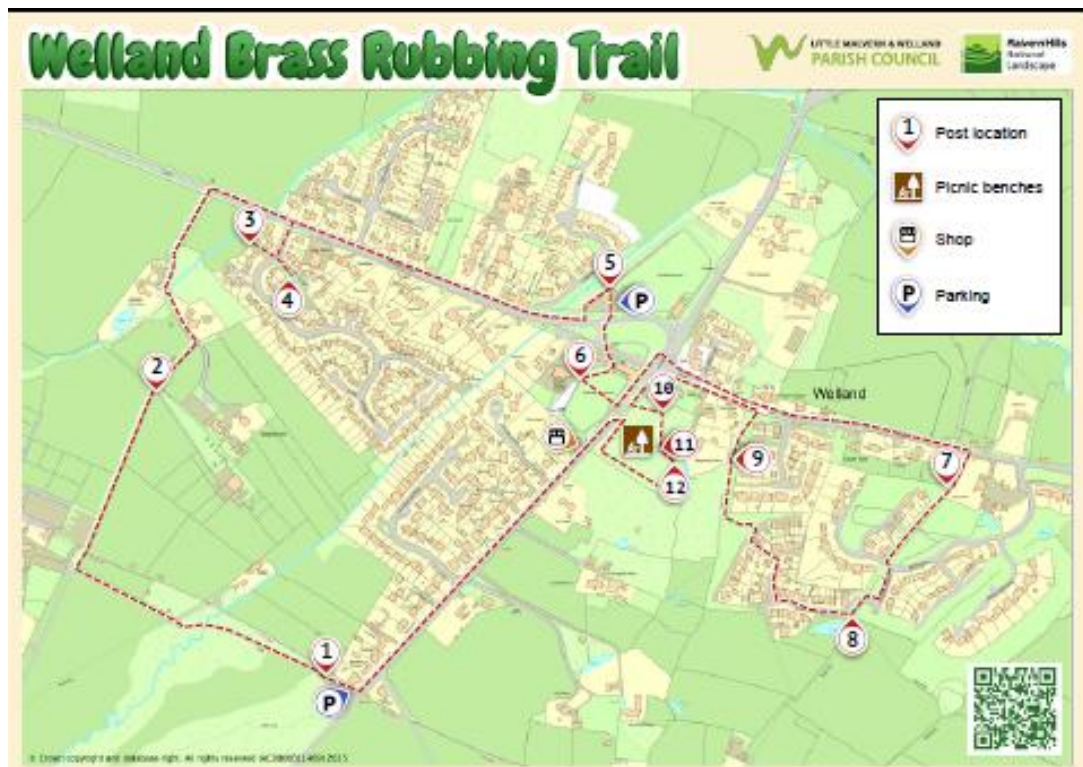
## Water Courses and Ponds

Many thanks to those of you who have signed up again for the Spring 2026 Earthwatch WaterBlitz national water testing survey. **If you haven’t already let us know if you have signed up, please can you do so ASAP – we are now finalising the locations for our testing. Many thanks!**

Meanwhile, Simone Mansi from Worcestershire Wildlife Trust and the Treescapes Project has asked me to share the following with you in case this is of interest for your own land or for landowners you might know: *“We are happy to announce that through the Severn Treescapes project we can now offer natural flood management improvements, on top of our bespoke woodland creation funding and all the other tree-based advice we provide. This will be done on a site-by-site basis but some of the interventions we could offer would be attenuation ponds, leaky dams, scrapes, riparian planting, wet woodland and more. The rough target area is between the Malvern hills and Upton upon Severn, but this may be expanded in the future. If this is of interest please contact your local Severn Treescapes advisor, Simone Mansi – [simone@worcestershirewildlifetrust.org](mailto:simone@worcestershirewildlifetrust.org) , 07534102856*

## Footpaths

The footpath upgrades are almost all finished, in time you to enjoy our beautiful landscape in the holidays and better weather. Don’t forget our nature activity trail this Easter! More information about this family-friendly, circular trail route around Welland village can be found at [Brass Rubbing Trail – Little Malvern and Welland Parish Council](#).



It is important for our community and for our own health and wellbeing that we can all enjoy our beautiful countryside and public rights of way. We are always grateful to know if you find you have issues with footpath accessibility, for example if they are overgrown, obstructed, stiles broken or if signs are missing. Do contact us if you know of any problems and the parish council will look into it and see what might be able to be done.

## Community Engagement

We hosted another of our popular family environment events in the October half term. A wonderful day was had by all, with grateful thanks to all those who volunteered in the planning and on the day. As with the previous day, we had animals to see, and the children could make bug homes, animal edibles, and nature themed creative projects.

The parish council is also continuing to support engagement with nature at home and in the community too. Pre-school has been given wildflower seed bombs to plant, and the school has been provided with bird boxes and wildflower seeds for their grounds.

There's also a FREE birdfeeder giveaway, distributed on a first-come, first-served basis, in response to emailed requests from those living in Little Malvern or Welland. Contact [environmentandplanning@littlemalvernandwelland-pc.gov.uk](mailto:environmentandplanning@littlemalvernandwelland-pc.gov.uk) if you would like one!



Remember, as well as volunteering for the BEV projects described above, there are a number of other ways to volunteer and help our environment! More information on these and other volunteering opportunities can be found at [Volunteering – Little Malvern and Welland Parish Council](#)

**Finally - we have a competition for you!** The Malvern Hills National Landscape have very kindly funded some gorgeous prizes for us and we are running a Photo Competition! There are two categories - under 16s and over 16s and the theme is 'Little Malvern and Welland Landscape and Nature'. Deadline for entries is 31<sup>st</sup> May; more information and terms and conditions can be found at [Photo Competition – Little Malvern and Welland Landscape and Nature – Little Malvern and Welland Parish Council](#)

### Some events coming up and other nature based info and resources that may be of interest:

- **Local Environment Talks**

- Castlemorton: Castlemorton's upcoming excellent environmental talks are:

[Organic Veg Talk – Thurs 2nd April 7:30 – Castlemorton Environmental Group](#)

[The Whys and Wherefores of Bumblebee Care – Thursday 30th April 7:30 – Castlemorton Environmental Group](#)

- **Castlemorton Black Poplar Project**

- 53 native black poplars have now been planted across 15 locations this winter mainly in the Parishes of Castlemorton, Birtsmorton, Welland and the Hanleys. Castlemorton Environmental Group are continuing the project this year and if anyone is interested in helping with any aspect of it, then please get in touch with Mike Wilkinson via [info@ceg.castlemorton.org.uk](mailto:info@ceg.castlemorton.org.uk)

- **RSPB**

[Which birds return first in Spring?](#)