

Photo Credit: Neil Harris 2026



Welcome to our sixth Biodiversity and Environment Volunteers' Newsletter!

A quieter summer, with fewer events and activities, many having been made impossible by the extreme heat and hard soils. A very difficult time especially for our local wildlife, with lack of access to water and many habitats dying back.

The time has been spent though with lots of planning, a lot of new connections made, and funding secured for an exciting programme of activities for the next 6 months for our *"Connecting our Communities with Nature"* action plan, as you'll read here.

A new development in the Parish Council's programme of work has been to look at opportunities and be much more proactive on wider environmental matters including the pressing subject of climate change.

As ever, this newsletter is to update you about some of the projects we have planned, and what has been achieved to date, and also provide information about upcoming local environmental events and talks. And if you want to join in with any of the projects and activities, please remember to get in touch!

**Best wishes,
Sue Haywood**

Parish Council 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

Although the wildflower turf on Mick's Way, in the Orchard and in the Rec did splendidly, unfortunately the new wildflower turf by the village hall didn't reach its full potential due to regular onslaughts from sheep and cattle. However it still produced some lovely flowers providing a joy to many walking past, and to some happy bees and butterflies too! More wildflower turf is planned, to extend it further along the railings between the pavement and the Rec's railings.

This was the first year we also tried a revised mowing regime, leaving more of the verges and greenspace grass longer than we did previously. This is really important for wildlife and we are hopeful we are starting to get the balance right to meet those needs, and the community's expectations for the village character. Grateful thanks to the BEVs who developed and installed the lovely little information signs you will have seen on the verges and in some of the green spaces about this project.

We have new projects planned too! A fun, interactive nature-themed play panel will be installed in the Rec. This will bring a pop of colour and an opportunity for sensory play activity for children and as an opportunity for engagement for people with cognition or other disabilities. Grateful thanks to Councillor Christine Wild for this lovely equipment. And a beautiful new interpretation board is also in production for the village green, highlighting some of the things that make our village and landscape so special – grateful thanks to the Malvern Hills National Landscape for the funding for this. **Look out for both these panels in the coming few weeks!**

We are also working on an exciting new project with MHDC and MHNL to create new habitats and increase biodiversity in Giffard Drive greenspace. More news on this in the next newsletter!



Water Courses and Ponds

Many thanks again to our dedicated group of BEVs who are continuing our watercourse testing using the Earthwatch WaterBlitz programme. We are now collating lots of data about the nitrate and phosphate levels in our local watercourses. A valuable set of information that we have already used to engage with Severn Trent to discuss opportunities to improve the health of our local streams.

Some very helpful information arose from our conversations with Severn Trent, which we will share with you and the wider community via the parish newsletter and social media and in a separate mailing as soon as we can. For now though - one thing raised that was quite shocking was regarding septic tanks. Apparently there are rogue traders out there who charge you to empty your septic tank, but then dispose of it illegally and irresponsibly – basically flytipping it onto someone's land or into streams or down manholes – all absolutely revolting as well as the health and environmental harm it causes. The advice to those of you who may have a septic tank therefore is to please always double check that whoever you engage to empty it is properly registered with the Environment Agency - [Registered Septic Tank Emptying Companies | STR UK](#).

Footpaths

The lovely family-friendly, circular trail route around Welland village and our [Brass Rubbing Trail – Little Malvern and Welland Parish Council](#) is continuing to attract attention and being benchmarked, including from overseas! We hope you are still enjoying it – please do let friends and neighbours know about it.

So enthused are we by this, we are now also planning a second new trail! This time it will be a Reflection trail, with a focus on finding spaces to sit and reflect, places of tranquillity and beauty or with special meaning, in and about our parishes. We hope to also have further sculptures planned to enjoy as you follow the trail. Watch this space for more information!

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. We have already worked with landowners to help clear some paths, and are replacing at least one gate with one that is more accessible. 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

Celebrating Nature and your Creativity!



We were blown away by the quality of the photos received in our 'Little Malvern and Welland Landscape and Nature' photo competition. Judging was hard to do as a result, but congratulations to our winners - Jan Szymanski and Zach Morgan, pictured here with Paul Riordan, Parish Council Chair, at the prize giving held this summer in Pursers Orchard.

Their winning photos and all the other splendid entries can be viewed on the parish council website - [Local interest – Little Malvern and Welland Parish Council](#)

(Note – we are working to address a technical issue – photo credits for each image are currently only visible when the webpage is viewed on a mobile, but not on a laptop. Please bear with us while we seek to resolve this with the website host!)

Collaboration on Landscape and Biodiversity in the Southern Malvern Hills Parishes, and an exciting project about Pine Martens!

Welland Parish Council is part of a valuable collaboration with representatives from neighbouring parish councils and environment groups, the Malvern Hills Trust, Malvern Hills National Landscape, Malvern Hills District Council, Worcs Wildlife Trust, CPRE, and Worcs County Council, among others. We all meet a couple of times a year to share good practice, information about emerging biodiversity issues, and look for opportunities to work together on landscape scale projects.



At the last meeting, we had a fascinating presentation from Lucy Nord, Project Officer for Vincent Wildlife Trust who has been doing great work for pine martens in the Wye valley and is now hoping to expand into our area.

Lucy would love to hear from anyone that might be interested in volunteering as a den box host, a camera station monitor or den box monitor. Lucy's contact details are lucy.nord@vwt.org.uk and more information can be found as follows:

- Info on the National Pine Marten Monitoring Programme: <https://pinemartens.uk/national-pine-marten-monitoring-programme>
- Info on Marten Map, including a link to Marten Map Explorer, where you can zoom in on a chosen area to see how many sightings of pine martens there have been recently: <https://pinemartens.uk/national-pine-marten-monitoring-programme/marten-map>
- Link to report a pine marten sighting: <https://survey123.arcgis.com/share/a8c5d8e084dc4ecb9b92c57c42769d1f>. This is just for one-off sightings and there is a separate recording form for those carrying out ongoing monitoring (e.g. using a trail camera).

Activities in Little Malvern and Welland Parishes

We also have our own New and Ongoing Activities that we would love YOU to get involved with!

- Cemetery:
Grateful thanks for the continuing wonderful BEV support in our cemetery. We have three dedicated groups working to support this special space - one who are conducting floral and fungi surveys, another who are maintaining the beautiful sculptures, and a further group who have been watering the young hedgerow and tree plants, nursing them through this challenging summer. We would welcome more names on the rota for each of these groups though – the more there are, the easier it is for everyone.
- New Creative Competition:
....an email will be coming out to you all about this shortly!!
- Family Environment Day – Sunday 1st November
A small group of BEVs are busy planning our next family-fun environment event for the autumn half term. Previous events have been a joy to be at, enabling lots of happy young people to take part in nature themed crafts and activities and exciting animal encounters. We would love a big group of volunteers please to help them out on the day – setting up, clearing away and/or helping out during the event itself.
- Habitat Creation and Management Projects
For those of you who prefer outdoor practical activity, we have a number of projects coming up in the next couple of months and into next year. These will include invasive species management, wildflower seed sowing, wildflower turf, hedge and tree planting, installation and construction projects.



Please let me know if you would like to join one or more of these groups!
And huge thanks to all those who are already involved. Truly grateful to you all.



Please remember that as well as volunteering for BEV projects, you can help our local environment in other ways - more information on these can be found at [Volunteering – Little Malvern and Welland Parish Council](#)

Climate Change and other Environment Action

Little Malvern and Welland Parish Council has a Climate Emergency Statement and a working group dedicated to looking at the challenges of climate change that are already affecting our communities, and how we should respond to this.

Part of this work has been to join a collaboration with neighbouring parishes, specifically looking at ways we can work together to raise public awareness and identify how we can most effectively support community members in an increasingly unpredictable future climate. The first product of this collaboration was a well-attended screening of the National Emergency Briefing – a powerful film putting forward information about climate change – see [National Emergency Briefing on climate & nature](#).

And Finally....

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

- **Local Environment Talks**

- Castlemorton: Castlemorton continues its excellent programme of screenings and talks:

[Film – Derek vs Derek – in collaboration with Morton Majestic – Sat 10th October – Castlemorton Environmental Group](#)

[Talk – Longdon Marsh and Hill Court Farm – Thurs 26th November 7:30pm – Castlemorton Environmental Group](#)

[Talk – Pine Martens – Thurs 10th December – with Johnny Birks 7:30pm](#)

- WWT in Malvern: Lyttleton Tea Rooms, Thursday 1st October at 7.30pm

[Big cats in the UK | Worcestershire Wildlife Trust](#)

- **People's Emergency Briefing**

If you missed our screening of this important 45min film in Welland, you may like to see it at one of these events:

30 Sept 2026 7.00pm Baptist Church, Upton upon Severn

08 Oct 2026 7.00pm Colwall Park Hotel, Colwall

29th Nov 2026 7.00pm The Cube, Malvern

And at Colwall Greener Eco Festival on Saturday 7 November 2026 11am – 4pm

It is free but ticketed. For more information and to get your tickets at this link:

<https://www.nebriefing.org/screening-map>