

## SUSTAINABLE WIGGINTON ACTIVITIES - (updated from 2023 Oddy article)

### Activities this year:

**Wilding the Rec:** We continued maintenance of the wilded part of the recreation ground. The weather was favourable and the results this year have been excellent! The snowdrops and daffodils began showing in late February and



followed by the tulips, bluebells, wild garlic and snakeshead fritillaries. The perennial wildflowers produced a great showing with many native species including yellow rattle and harebells. The bog also was splendid with a number of new species showing including devil's bit scabious. See the photo. We have recently planted some small native trees - guelder rose and wayfaring tree, near the southwest corner of the area.

- **The Community Fruit Scheme.** Following last year's successful trial with apple juice from the Rec, this year we introduced this scheme whereby volunteers pick spare or unused apples from privately owned village trees and it is made into juice.

The apple harvest has been very patchy this year but we made a solid start. Apples were picked from 10 orchards and made into 104 bottles of good quality pasteurised juice which will keep for a year or more. The bottles went to the tree owners, the volunteers and 60 bottles to the community shop.

- **The Great Big Green Week:** We have this year strengthened our collaboration with Sustainable Tring - formerly Tring in Transition. ST took part in this year's national "Great Big Green Week" and as part of this, jointly with ST and Herts and Middx Wildlife Trust, we held a well attended event about wilding in the village hall. We also facilitated a visit to the eco-house under construction at Park Farm - thanks to Debbie Meech for this.

- **Thermal imaging:** Thermal imaging is a technique which can identify where your home is losing most heat. We carried this out on 17 properties in Wigginton in early 2020 and feedback from the home owners was encouraging. Last winter with Tring in Transition we helped carry out about 20 thermal imaging surveys in the area. As well as homes in Wigginton, Aldbury and Tring, this included a school and some almshouses. We will continue this collaboration this coming winter.
- **EV chargers:** Detailed investigations and discussion took place with the shop about installing EV chargers there and it was established that the electrical supply is sufficient for 2No 22kw chargers. Unfortunately however, the electricity supply had been subject to such large price increases that we reluctantly concluded that the shop could not offer cost-effective EV charging at that time. This will be kept under review.
- **PV on the shop:** On the plus side, we were pleased that the shop has installed solar panels on its roof. In this case the decision was no doubt aided by the high cost of electricity!
- **The Big Picnic:** We had a stall at the Big Picnic and were pleased with the interest shown by visitors and sign-ups to the community fruit scheme. Congratulations to the PC for a great event! We also publicised the Community Fruit Scheme at the Gardeners' Show and the Church Fete.

**Proposed activities for 2023/2024/2025:**

- Continue maintaining the wilding of the Rec and consider further planting and improvements.
- Continue and expand the community fruit scheme. If there is a normal harvest we hope to make much more juice!
- Carry out more Thermal imaging surveys with Sustainable Tring next winter.
- If the price of electricity drops, we will review with the shop the possibility of EV chargers there.
- We will continue and strengthen our collaboration with Sustainable Tring and Aldbury Sustainability Club on events and initiatives.
- 56 Club - update to follow.