

Dunsford Wildlife Wardens

What we do now

We organise monthly wildlife meetings in pubs around the Teign Valley. These occur on the fourth Wednesday of the month, and the next one will be at The Royal Oak in Dunsford on 28th May starting at 6.30p.m. and ending at 7.30. Everyone is welcome to come.

We survey sites around the Teign Valley looking for New County Wildlife Sites (see the attached leaflet and paperwork). If anyone has a field or wood they would like surveyed, please let me know (julia@kirklandmail.com).

We are working with St Mary's church 'Greening the church group' who have achieved a gold Eco award! We recently went to Lustleigh churchyard for a meeting with the ecologist Kelvin Boot to share ideas on improving conditions for wildlife in churchyards. We have carried out wildflower, bird and butterfly surveys and are hoping to do a lichen survey this year.

We have written articles for Unity magazine encouraging best practises to support wildlife in gardens and sharing what we have found around the parish.

We have collected, dried and given out wildflower seeds in the village shop for the past four years. This year we supported the Hospiscare bring and buy fundraiser in the village hall by producing plants for sale.

We have surveyed locally for Brown Hairstreak butterfly eggs, and we were successful. Two eggs were found at a local farm. We also found several eggs just to the North of Dunsford.

We currently monitor Reedy Brook for water quality with the West Country Rivers Trust. We also check Riverfly numbers on Reedy three times a year. This should warn us of any water quality problems.

We have planted daffodils around Dunsford and will plant more in October.

We have created a biodiversity policy for Dunsford in conjunction with the DCI (Dunsford climate initiative).

We are working with local farmers in conjunction with Elliott Fairs to put up Dormouse tunnels to find out where our local dormouse populations are.

We have created a wildflower area on the Village Green and put up bat and bird boxes.

What we will be doing in the future

We will continue to do all the other things that we have already started! Surveying flowers, looking out for Cirl Buntings, hunting for butterfly eggs, giving out wildflower seeds, supporting the Greening the Church group, County Wildlife site surveying, water testing, Riverfly monitoring, writing articles and meeting up in pubs!