



KINGS CAPLE ENVIRONMENT GROUP

Thursday 15th January 2025 at The Old School, Kings Capse

Present: Cllr Janice Gardiner (Chair), Cllr Pam Apperley, Judy Berry, Tom Deards, Sarah Petter and Chris Bucknell (Parish Clerk).

1. **Apologies:** Fran Keogh, Jill Fisher and Ella Gardiner

2. **To Agree Minutes of the November Meeting**

It was agreed these were an accurate record of the meeting. All minutes of the Environment Group would be put on the website.

3. **To Consider any Outstanding Issues**

2024 Annual Review – the Review would look back at events during the year, such as the Seed Swap, Plant Swap, Hedgehog Talk, Bluebell Walk and Wreath Making Workshop. Cllr Gardiner asked those present to put together a short article to go with photos which had been taken at these events. It was also felt the front page should have a short resume of the group and how it hoped to achieve its aims and objectives and Cllr Gardiner would put something together.

4. **Update on Activities/Events Programme**

Wreath Making Workshop – This had been very successful, well attended with activities enjoyed by children as well as adults.

5. **2025 Programme (dates to be confirmed)**

This would include both discussion groups and events with discussions taking place on a Thursday and events on a Saturday.

Seedswap – 15th February 2025. It was noted that there was a similar event taking place at the Courtyard on 1st February and Monmouth on 8th February.

Small Changes to Lifestyle – 27th February. This could be a discussion about ways of living, building on Simon Lenanne's talk which was taking place on 16th January. It was noted that this was touched on by Gareth Williams (Fownhope) during his talk in September 2022.

Herbs – This would take place on a Thursday evening, and it was felt it would be best held later in the year, maybe in the summer which would give everyone time to pick a herb, research it and come to the event to talk about it.

Wildflower Meadows – to take place possibly in April. This could be an event highlighting why meadows are needed and promoting No Mow May. It was suggested that this could maybe be linked to a downloadable video, or with resources from the Herefordshire Wildlife Trust. Fran to follow up.

Foraging Walk – Cllr Apperley to follow up with Poulstone Court. It was felt the event could take place in late Spring, early May when things were starting to grow.

Ancient Trees in the Parish – this could be a discussion and circular walk. Judy to follow up.

Growing and How to Keep Your Plants Alive – 20th March. To be led by Tom Deards covering growing, pruning of overwintering plants, analysing soil, water and looking at best practice. This would focus on gardens and small changes that people could achieve.

Annual Review Event – 5th April. This would be looking back over the past year, reviewing events and highlighting small changes that could be made to lifestyle in the Spring. This event would be inclusive for families and children.

Plant Swap – 10th May

The following related events and activities were discussed

RSPB Birdwatch - 26th/27th January

Wye Catchment Partnership who looking at three areas, high flows, low flows and degradation of peat and acidification of head waters. This could be a possibility to join with Hoarwithy for an event.

CPRE – They would be happy to come and do a talk and show their video Can Our Rivers Survive? CPRE were currently working with the **Friends of the River Wye** on a Citizens Science Project to Restore the River Wye to Health. A site visit was a potential option to see where the monitoring was taking place. They were also working on various hedgerow projects. If a film were involved it was suggested that the event could take place at Brockhampton Hall which would allow more to attend. Judy would talk to CPRE and Pam would discuss the possibilities with Jim Buckley from Hoarwithy.

Herefordshire Rural Hub were working with **Wyescape Project**, involving around 80 farmers, working to identify actions and changes they can make to restore the river corridor, including reduced nutrient use, reverting high risk fields from arable cropping to grassland, creating new wetlands, floodplain meadows and woodlands.

Townsend Farm - Regan Ben was suggested as he had a lot of knowledge and gave a good talk. A farm visit would also be a possibility.

6. **Agreed Report to Parish Council with any Required Decisions**

Budget – the Clerk said the 2025/26 Budget was being discussed and agreed at the next Parish Council meeting. £1,000 had been allocated to the Environment Group. It was agreed that this would be sufficient and that the Parish Council would cover the cost of room hire for the Coffee Mornings as well as the Environment Group Meetings and events.

The next Parish Council meeting would be on Thursday 23rd January and Cllr Gardiner would give a brief update.

7. **Date and Time of Next Environment Meeting**

Wednesday 19th March 2025 at 7.00 pm in The Old School (to be agreed)