

ANNUAL REVIEW



Welcome to our annual newsletter where we review the events of the year and share local information.

2024

As part of the Parish Council, the Environment Group is here to support the projects you would like to do in Kings Caple to help us reduce the impacts of climate change and reverse biodiversity loss. We held 10 events in 2024, with our seed and plant swaps becoming regular features, and new evening discussion groups introduced to share ideas and knowledge with neighbours. We also highlighted the plight of hedgehogs and learnt what we can do in our gardens to help. We asked for sightings of hedgehogs around the village and purchased a wildlife camera for residents to borrow to record wildlife activity. We hope to see you at future events!

BY JANICE GARDINER



UPCOMING EVENTS 2025

Check our Facebook or beautiful blackboards for more information...

Plant Swap

Sat 10th May
10am-12pm
Old School Hall

Early Summer Walk

Sat 17th May
10am-12pm
Meet at Old School Hall

Annual Parish Meeting

Thurs 12th June
7pm - 9pm
Old School Hall



A couple of us also went on the protest march in London to lobby the government to protect our precious rivers and waterways!

BIODIVERSITY PROJECTS BY PAM APPERLEY

We have been very impressed and encouraged by some of the projects that are currently in progress or being developed.

Wyescapes: a landscape recovery project for agricultural land along the River Wye and the River Lugg in Herefordshire. All the landowners in our area have been approached by the project and they have all expressed interest in becoming involved.

Herefordshire Meadows: whose aim is to conserve, restore and create flower-rich grasslands. A few of us went to help Caradoc sow a large area of their land with wildflowers. We are looking forward to seeing the results of our labours in Spring/Summer!

National Landscapes: have a grant available for farming in protected landscapes & again Caradoc have obtained a grant to plant several new hedgerows on their land which they invited us to be involved in. We hope to continue to support landowners to care for our environment as they take opportunities to restore more meadow land next to the River Wye.



passing well managed babbling brooks and onto the wooded areas. The bluebells on display did not disappoint and there were lots of opportunities to follow the tracks into the woodland and learn how the management of a sporting estate enables the bluebells to thrive - they were especially plentiful in the pheasant release pens due to the brambles being cut back. It was a great visit for all, and such lovely hosts to show off where they live and work with such passion.

BLUEBELL WALK BY TOM DEARDS

On a lovely sunny late Spring day families and friends from Kings Cagle attended a bluebell walk at the Perrystone Estate in How Cagle. With lots of excitement everyone met at the grain stores on the Estate and loaded up for a guided tour in a tractor and trailer kindly hosted by Mark and Hazel, and driven by Kevin. The visit started with the hidden valleys of the estate, seeing how the wildlife thrives in harmony with a commercial arable farm, then

FRUIT FARM VISIT BY JUDY BERRY

On a cool, damp, 6th July a few of us went to Windmill Hill fruit farm. Owned and run by Anthony and Christine Snell, who have introduced predatory insect pest control, installed large reservoirs that collect rainwater from the polytunnels, created wildflower meadows and planted abundant hedgerows. Tom Deards, farm manager and agronomist, took us around the farm, all the while giving us information about how to make farms biodiverse and environmentally friendly. We all had a wonderful time trying the strawberries, learning which were ripe and how to pick them without damaging the fruit. We also gleaned so much information about commercial fruit farming which helped us appreciate the science needed to make strawberries, raspberries or blueberries healthy and nutritious for us to eat well.





HEDGEHOG EVENT

A lady from Huckleberry Hedgehogs did a talk and I learnt about what they eat, when they are scared they curl up and how they can get ill and killed. When the baby hogs are little their spikes are softer. My dad dressed up as giant hedgehog and rode a scooter to show people how important they are.

BY EVE, AGE 10



The Wye Valley National Landscape team is asking people to record where they last saw a hedgehog so they can better understand the current status of our hedgehog populations. Please email with a grid reference or what3words to: naturerecovery@wyevalleyaonb.org.uk.

WREATH MAKING BY LILY AGE 8

On the 7th December 2024, the country was being battered by Storm Darragh, but in Kings Caple we were having fun making Christmas wreaths!

We had collected greenery from the garden and hedges the day before, found some ribbons, dried some oranges and took it all along to the Old School Hall to share with others. Some people had brought their own wreath base for decorating and some were made on the day from willow whips. There was Christmas music playing which increased our jolly spirits, along with refreshments including mince pies and mulled wine and christmas biscuits for the children. Grandad and I started to gather bits of greenery to put on our wreath base. Some bits we pushed into the base and other bits we attached with wire. After that we got some ribbon, baubles, dried chillis, and fir cones to add to the wreath. The table was full of things to choose from and people were working around the table on their wreaths. There was not much room left in the Old School Hall but, in a corner, there was a biscuit designing and decorating activity for the children. We enjoyed decorating and eating the biscuits. Everyone was very busy and chatted while they were working. Towards the end of the morning, Storm Darragh cut off the power but we managed to finish off our wreaths and biscuits and took them home to enjoy. Mummy put my wreath on the wall by our front door.



I really enjoyed making my wreath. Perhaps you could have a go next year!



KOMBUCHA WORKSHOP

BY SARAH PETTER

The Kombucha workshop at the Old School was well attended and informative. Daniel introduced us to the ancient Chinese art of making fermented tea. It's simpler than you think! You need a SCOBY (Symbiotic Culture of Bacteria and Yeast), some sugar, a clean vessel and cloth. Some of us enjoyed tangy taste! Probiotics can help support the balance of good bacteria in your gut.



DISCUSSION GROUPS

BY ELLA GARDINER

One thing I love about our events is that I always have a really good chat with people and feel like I learn something new!

There is a wealth of knowledge within our group, and we decided that it would be a good idea to give people a space to share their passions with us all. We had our first meeting in November, where Judy Berry held a discussion surrounding the links between soil quality, the food we eat and our own health. I found the conversation enriching and really enjoyed having a dedicated space to explore this topic in depth. I look forward to many more in the future and if you have a subject you would like to discuss, please do let us know!



Himalayan
balsam picking

OTHER EVENTS 2024

School art
competition



Seed swap



Meal hosted by
Plantation Villa
donations from the
event were kindly
gifted to Greening
Kings Caple and St
John the Baptist
Parish Church



Plant swap



For more information follow our facebook page: Greening Kings Caple