

WILD COLERNE

England & Wales · Charity number 1197970

Details

Status Registered

Legal form CIO

Registered 2022-02-17

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

Address 60 Forrester Green
Colerne
Chippenham
SN14 8EA

Phone 07711513722

Email info@wildcolerne.org

Website www.wildcolerne.org

Activities

Objects: TO PROMOTE, FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE PUBLIC, THE CONSERVATION, PROTECTION AND IMPROVEMENT OF THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT IN COLERNE PARISH BY: 1. ENHANCING HABITATS FOR NATIVE WILDLIFE, INCLUDING ITS FLORA, FAUNA AND OTHER TAXA TO PROMOTE BIODIVERSITY;2. PROVIDING INFORMATION TO RAISE PUBLIC AWARENESS OF THE MAGNITUDE AND CAUSES OF BIODIVERSITY LOSS; 3. PROMOTING ACTIONS TO MITIGATE BIODIVERSITY LOSS AND THE IMPACT OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT. 4. FACILITATING COMMUNITY SUPPORT FOR BIODIVERSITY PROTECTION BY PROMOTING NATURE THEMED ACTIVITIES

Activities: 1. Enhancing habitats for native wildlife, including its flora, fauna and other taxa;2. Providing information to raise public awareness;3. Promoting actions to mitigate biodiversity loss and the impact of climate change on the natural environment;4. Facilitating community support for biodiversity protection by promoting nature themed activities.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Human Resources, Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** Education/training, Environment/conservation/heritage
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, People With Disabilities, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Wiltshire

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2025-05-31	£343	£1,137	-	-
2024-05-31	£2,753	£1,312	-	-
2023-05-31	£1,138	£580	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Dorothy Ruth Caddick Robertson	Chair	2022-02-17
Christopher John Woods		2022-02-17
Duncan Alexander Findlay Robertson		2022-02-17
MICHAEL RAYMOND ROGERS		2022-02-17
Mitchell Ian Butterworth		2022-02-17
Rachael Dutton		2024-11-18

WILD COLERNE

England & Wales - Charity number 1197970

Accounts

**Wild Colerne Chairperson's report
and Finance Report**
AGM 13th October 2025

Wild Colerne (Charity number 1197970) was formally established as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation 17th Feb 2022 with the following objectives agreed with the Charity Commission:

To promote, for the benefit of the public, the conservation, protection, and improvement of the natural environment in Colerne parish by:

1. Enhancing habitats for native wildlife, including its flora, fauna and other taxa to promote biodiversity
2. Providing information to raise public awareness of the magnitude and causes of biodiversity loss.
3. Promoting actions to mitigate biodiversity loss and the impact of climate change on the natural environment.
4. Facilitating community support for biodiversity protection by promoting nature themed activity.

We are inspired by Frank Entwistle whose foresight gave Colerne village the legacy of 'Frank's Wood'.

Current Trustees:

Dorothy Robertson (Chair)
Ian Butterworth (Treasurer and data protection lead)
Duncan Robertson (Secretary)
Mike Rogers (Safeguarding lead)
Chris Woods
Rachel Dutton (website maintenance).

Our constitution requires that 1/3 of trustees stand down each AGM in rotation and stand for re-election if they wish.

Chris Woods and Ian Butterworth are standing down.

They are both standing for re-election.

If you are interested in becoming a trustee, please contact us via Email info@wildcolerne.org

Our Policies on Safeguarding, Inclusion, Health and Safety and Data Protection are reviewed by the Trustees each year and can be viewed via the website (or on request).

Steering Committee

Trustees plus Karen Brzezcki, Jane Mellet, Susi Bancroft, Keith Mortimer and Katie Butterworth.

Membership and Social Media Communication

Subscription paying members (£10 per year): 30.

Wild Colerne email list: 173 (18 new since last AGM).

Wild Colerne Facebook membership has grown from 277 to 311 since last AGM
Wild Colerne also has an Instagram and Tik Tok account.
Our website wildcolerne.org includes lots of wildlife and biodiversity information, an Our Projects Page, Event Diary, Photo Gallery, Nature News and Nature's Calendar blogs.

Links with other organisations include:

Colerne CE Primary School's Eco School projects

Colerne St John the Baptist Eco Church work

Wiltshire Climate Alliance

Cotswold Wardens

Corsham Area Hedgehog Rescue

Wild Colerne is represented on the Parish Council's Working Group for Climate and Biodiversity.

Funding support 2024/25

We are grateful to the Parish Council for £200 in support of Colerne's participation in the Wild Waters Festival.

Projects and Activities

This year our main focus was water. We joined 12 other communities along the River Avon from Bradford on Avon to Batheaston, and Box and Colerne on the By Brook to run water themed events for a Wild Waters Festival (wildwatersfestival.com). A poem celebrating the By Brook was written for our Festival events (see Page 5).

Our contributions to the festival were:

a) A walk led by Keith Mortimer to see dippers. These birds are now rare in Wiltshire, but we still have them on the By Brook. They initially played hide and seek, but we were eventually rewarded with lovely views of this special bird.

b) The Wild Colerne Nature day. This year we had a Water theme with a screening of local river photos in the Church accompanied by birdsong, a display of By Brook poems from Colerne Primary School, a children's nature activities area and various stalls in the Market Place and churchyard. The Wiltshire Geological Society brought a fascinating display featuring the natural and cultural history of the By Brook, its source brooks, and their geology.



c) "Water Quality for People and Wildlife" A talk in the Parish Rooms.

Speakers: Samantha Vince, Head of water compliance Wessex Water, and Dan Nicholas, Surveys and Monitoring Officer for Bristol Avon Riverside Trust (BART).

d) Rave On for the Avon – a film screening in St John the Baptist Church.

This inspiring tale of creativity and community follows the highs and lows of the Conham Bathers, Bristol's clean water campaigners as they fight for the safety of wild swimming on their beloved Avon River. We are grateful to the Church and support from the Parish Council for enabling this event to happen.

Our Wild Waters Festival events raised £60 for the work of the Bristol Avon Rivers Trust.

The festival provided lots of food for thought on how we might help protect our Brooks. Some early initiatives/actions include:

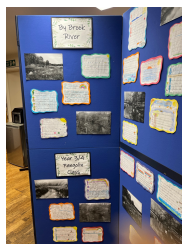
- * Contact made with "We are Avon", a collaborative movement linking groups keen to promote the regeneration of the River Avon and its valley.
 - * We took part in The Rivers Trust July water testing for nitrates and phosphates along the By Brook, Doncombe and Lid Brook and their September "Big Water Watch"
- Two of our members are starting Riverfly Testing on our Brooks to monitor the ecological health of the water.

Other activities

a) With Colerne CE Primary School.

We continue to work with the School to bring to our children appreciation of the joys of nature and how to help it thrive.

- * Butterfly and Moth collage workshop with collage artist Marian Hill in June. The children learnt about the life cycle of these fascinating insects and produced some great artwork which we plan to create into a display. Members of Wild Colerne took the children "butterfly and moth spotting" in small groups in the school playground.
- * By Brook acrostic poem writing for the Wild Waters festival.



We have Mike and Christine Rogers to thank for the nature-friendly habitat at the school. Many hours of input over a long time.

- * Mike Rogers has set up a "Pond Team" of children to renovate one of the ponds in the schoolyard. We will be helping with a work party to do clearance needed for another pond area. Wild Colerne financed the planting of some additional wildflowers which are important as butterfly and moth food plants.

b) The "start the week with a wildflower" blog, posted on Wild Colerne Facebook, Instagram and our website, continues to raise awareness of our local wildflowers. Sixty-four Colerne wildflowers have featured so far since it began February 2024. It will restart next Spring.

c) Wildflower sewing project – a glorious alter cloth and a new cloth for signing the register in the making.

This lovely collaboration with Colerne Eco-church continues. Around 25 people have been involved, meeting in the church under Susi Bancroft's excellent tutelage.

d) Children's Nature Activities.

Our "children's activities team" (Susi Bancroft, Catherine Dixon, and Rach Dutton) organised nature art and craft sessions on our May Fair stall, as part of our June Nature Day Event, and a free morning session at the Recreation Ground in August. A final session for the year is planned, weather willing in Frank's Wood 11th October.

e) Colerne's Swifts.



** Celebrating the return of our swifts on a fine evening 30th April. They arrived as if on cue.*

* We continue to look for Swift nests on evening Swift walks - for protection and to inform the best places to site swift boxes.

* 3 swift nest boxes were installed in the church tower this Spring - a joint Wild Colerne, Colerne Eco Church project. Thanks to Clive Spencer for making the boxes, Graham Kelly for fitting them and Roger Haynes for facilitating bell tower access. Also, to Karen and Mike Brzezicki for negotiating the necessary permissions. It can take some time for nest boxes to be used, but playing swift calls near the box brings them in to investigate. The logistics for doing this will be explored.

* This year saw a pleasing number of swift boxes fitted on houses in the main swift areas of Colerne following some Wild Colerne "door knocking". And breaking news – swifts used a box at the end of Chapel Path with successful fledging!

f) Colerne Tree Trail walking map.

We have continued with preparation work for hopefully getting this project off the ground. Rob Child will be helping with the mapping work. Clive Spencer, Catherine Truscott and Dorothy Robertson have made a start with identifying and photographing potential trees to include. Work in progress. We welcome nominations of favourite trees to include, and ideas on funding.

g) Talks.

Jinny Matters from Corsham Area Hedgehog Rescue gave an excellent talk in the Fox and Hounds on her work "Caring for our hedgehogs." £50 was raised to support her work.

h) Monthly nature walks.

Monthly Bird walks, also tree appreciation and butterfly walks. A winter moth trap reveal is planned for December.

Thanks to Keith Mortimer and Chris Woods for leading and sharing their knowledge.

i) Monthly pub socials for informal nature chat.

j) Habitat work.

A Volunteers WhatsApp Group has been set up to facilitate calls for help with whatever work might be needed to preserve/improve our natural spaces.

Future plans

We held an open “bring your ideas” session in Franks wood in August which generated a lot of ideas and discussion. We will be sifting through them to decide on priorities for next year, and hope for more input into this during our AGM 13th October. Our speaker will be Dagmar Junghanns, Wiltshire Wildlife Trust Trustee, talking on “Nature recovery in Wiltshire, and how can we help.”

A poem celebrating the Bybrook, written for Wild Colerne for the 'Wild Waters Festival 2025'

The Bybrook hums a summer tune

The Bybrook hums a summer tune,
Beneath the sun, beneath the moon,
It winds through fields in golden light,
A ribbon in motion, a stream in flight.

Otters play in secret bends,
Like laughter shared between old friends,
Their whiskers twitch, their bodies glide,
In water's hush they slip and hide.

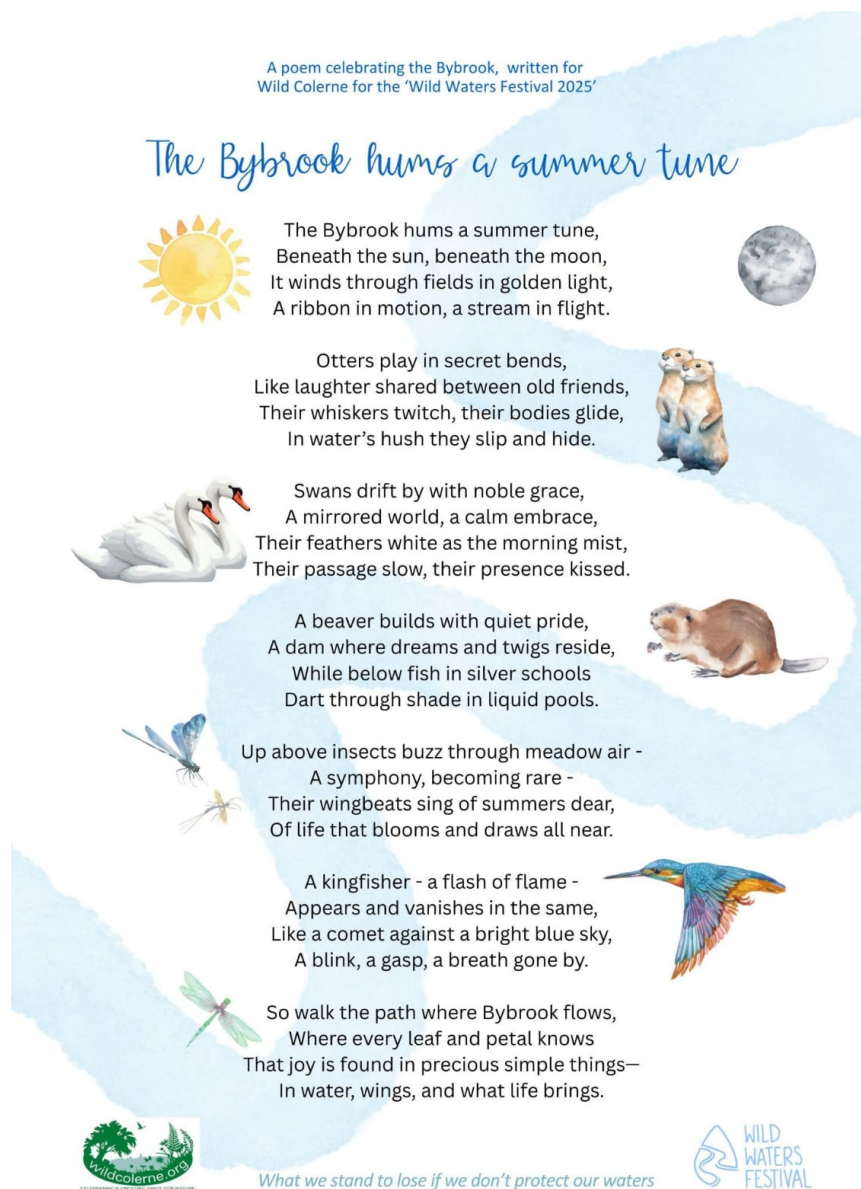
Swans drift by with noble grace,
A mirrored world, a calm embrace,
Their feathers white as the morning mist,
Their passage slow, their presence kissed.


A beaver builds with quiet pride,
A dam where dreams and twigs reside,
While below fish in silver schools
Dart through shade in liquid pools.

Up above insects buzz through meadow air -
A symphony, becoming rare -
Their wingbeats sing of summers dear,
Of life that blooms and draws all near.


A kingfisher - a flash of flame -
Appears and vanishes in the same,
Like a comet against a bright blue sky,
A blink, a gasp, a breath gone by.

So walk the path where Bybrook flows,
Where every leaf and petal knows
That joy is found in precious simple things—
In water, wings, and what life brings.



 wildcolerne.org
CELEBRATING & PROTECTING OUR NATURAL SPACES

What we stand to lose if we don't protect our waters

 WILD WATERS FESTIVAL

Finance report

Our Finance reporting period for the Charity Commission is 1st June to 31st May.

Wild Colerne Finance 01/6/24 - 31/5/25		Balance carried forward. £1,924.81	
Income		Expenses	
Subs	259.73	Equipment	681.08
Donations at events	82.87	Hire of premises	30
Grants	0	Speaker fees	100
Other		Printing	120.60
		Internet charges	135
		Insurance	100.80
		Other	
Total income	£342.60	Total Expenses	£1,137.48
Balance 31/05/2025	£1,129.93		



CELEBRATING & CREATING SPACE FOR NATURE

WILD COLERNE

England & Wales - Charity number 1197970

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Wild Colerne Chairperson's report

AGM 18th November 2024

Wild Colerne (Charity number 1197970) was formally established as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation 17th Feb 2022 with the following objectives agreed with the Charity Commission -

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4. Facilitating community support for biodiversity protection by promoting nature themed activity.

We are inspired by Frank Entwistle whose foresight gave Colerne village the legacy of 'Frank's Wood'.

Current Trustees:

Dorothy Robertson (Chair)
Ian Butterworth (Treasurer and data protection lead)
Duncan Robertson (Secretary)
Mike Rogers (Safeguarding lead)
Chris Woods
Keith Mortimer.

Our constitution requires that 1/3 of trustees stand down each AGM in rotation and stand for re-election if they wish.

Duncan Robertson and Keith Mortimer are standing down.

Duncan Robertson is standing for re-election.

Rachel Dutton is standing for election.

If you are interested in becoming a trustee please contact the Trust via Email info@wildcolerne.org

Our Policies on Safeguarding, Inclusion, Health and Safety and Data Protection are reviewed by the Trustees each year and can be viewed via the website (or on request).

Steering Committee

Trustees plus Karen Brzezcki, Catherine Dixon, Rachael Dutton, Jane Mellet, Susi Bancroft and Katie Butterworth.

Membership and Social Media Communication

Subscription paying members: 19

Wild Colerne email list: 155 (35 new).

Wild Colerne Facebook membership has grown from 219 to 277.
Wild Colerne also has an Instagram and Tik Tok account.
Our website wildcolerne.org includes lots of wildlife and biodiversity information, an Event Diary, Photo Gallery, Nature News and Nature's Calendar blogs.

Examples of links with others

Colerne CE Primary School's Eco School projects
Colerne St John the Baptist Eco Church work
Wiltshire Climate Alliance
Cotswold Wardens
Corsham Area Hedgehog Rescue
Wild Colerne is represented on the Parish Council's Working Group for Climate and Biodiversity.

Funding support 2023/24

We are grateful to the Wildflower Society for a grant of £500 to fund our wildflower work with Colerne Primary School.

Projects and activities

Wildflowers were our main focus this year

"In England, on average one plant goes extinct per county every two years".

Our Aims for the year were:

- * To draw attention to the wonderful wildflowers in our Parish to reduce "plant blindness" in our community.
- * To build the connection with wild plants which comes from a knowledge of plant names and their stories.
- * To highlight the silent disappearance/decline of our wildflowers, why this is happening and implications for the survival of our insect pollinators, birds and bats.
- * To highlight the importance, and cumulative size of gardens as vital habitat for our struggling wildlife.
- * To help normalise the more nature friendly garden and verge management which is vital for helping our wildlife survive.

1. Wildflower patches projects

1 in 5 of our wildflower species are at risk of extinction. There are 20 million gardens in the UK - a lot of potential wildflower habitat.



100 packets of native wildflower seeds, funded by a donation were given out at a Wild Colerne stall in the Market Place in March. Children from Colerne Primary School painted the seed packets. The seed mix included annuals for results this Summer, and perennials. We hope people will be encouraged to give space for wildflowers in their gardens. We look forward to receiving feedback next year.

2. Walk to School Wildflower spotter sheet



Flowers based on a list compiled by Izzy Dixon, a former pupil on her walk to Colerne Primary school (along a route taken by many of the pupils). We are grateful to Liz House, who kindly volunteered her time to do the formatting work. The school gave out one to every family in July with an email to encourage use over the holidays. Printing funded by the Wild Flower Society.

3. School Wildflower

Mike Rogers helped the Eco monitors from each class to sow King's Coronation wildflower seeds in the school grounds. The seeds included uncommon annual species such as corncockle. The results were stunning



4. School Wildflower Painting Workshop with wildflower hunts

In June we took groups of Year 5 children to learn about wildflowers they found in the school grounds. Photos of their findings were used in a Wildflower Art Workshop led by local artist Hope Blamire, who volunteered her time to help the children create some stunning artwork. Materials and botanical eye lenses funded by the Wildflower Society.



5. A weekly “Start the week with a wildflower” blog on our social media

6. Wildflower sewing project - a glorious alter cloth in the making.

Collaboration with Colerne Eco-church. Thanks to Susi Bancroft for her teaching.

Swifts



The young bell-ringing team welcomed the return of our swifts in May with filming by Aleksander Domanski. Many thanks to Roger Haynes and the ringers for establishing and continuing this tradition.

* We continue to look for Swift nests on evening Swift walks - for protection and to inform best places to site swift boxes

* Logistics explored for possible installation on swift boxes in the church tower next year.

Wild Colerne Nature Day June 23rd

The Market Place and churchyard were filled with Nature themed stalls. Beautiful hand-drawn wildflower illustrations were on display in the church, and a slideshow of local nature photos with birdsong.

Children's Activities

May: "make a swift" crafting on our May Fair stall.

August: Free nature activity session at the rec.

December: Wild Colerne and the SHINE group at Colerne church are jointly hosting a tree at the Christmas Tree Festival in December. Our tree will have a "nature and sustainable Christmas" theme with the children making the decorations.

Talks/films

* June: "Life in our Brooks" explored the good, the bad and the ugly of our waterways. The village Hall was packed.

* October: A water themed Film night at the Liberal Club.

Monthly nature walks

Monthly Bird walks, Tree appreciation and Butterfly walks, plus Bat walks.

Moth Trap reveal

Thanks to Keith Mortimer and Chris Woods for leading and sharing their knowledge.

Monthly pub socials for informal nature chat.

Some Plans for the future

a) School

We are again joining forces with Colerne Primary school. The theme will be butterflies and moths. Lots of fun to be had looking for munching caterpillars and the adults in flight. A follow on from our wildflower project, highlighting and creating what they need to support their whole life cycle.

b) Wildwaters River Festival May 31st to June 15th

We are joining 12 other Councils, including Box, along the River Avon and its tributaries to celebrate our waterways and highlight the urgency of restoring our river's health. Ideas welcome for water themed activities/talks/films to include.

c) Climate and biodiversity themed films and talks.

d) We hope to produce Tree Trail walking maps, with assistance from Bob Child

This will be a two-year project to identify which trees to include, prepare the maps for printing. This will require funding.

Nominations of favourite trees to include, or ideas on funding welcome.

Starting balance		£813
Income	Subscriptions	£130
	Donations	£40
	Events	£83
	Grants	£2,500
	Total	£2753
Expenditure	Equipment	£1137
	Insurance	£100
	Venue Hire	£50
	Speaker fee	£25
	Total	£1312
Balance carried forward		£2102

WILD COLERNE

England & Wales - Charity number 1197970

Accounts



Wild Colerne Annual Report 17th October 2023

About Wild Colerne

Wild Colerne (Charity number 1197970) was formally established as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation 17th Feb 2022 with the following objectives agreed with the Charity Commission:

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3. Promoting actions to mitigate biodiversity loss and the impact of climate change on the natural environment.
4. Facilitating community support for biodiversity protection by promoting nature themed activity.

Our Current Trustees are:

Dorothy Robertson (Chair)
Ian Butterworth (Treasurer and Data Protection)
Duncan Robertson (Secretary)
Mike Rogers (Safeguarding)
Chris Woods
Keith Mortimer

As this is the first year of operation, there is no requirement for Trustees to stand down and all are willing to remain as Trustees. If anyone is interested in becoming a Trustee, please contact us at info@wildcolerne.com

Our Steering Committee members are the Trustees plus:

Karen Brzezcki
Catherine Dixon
Rachael Dutton
Jane Mellet
Clive Spencer

Background and Overview of Aims

The concept of Wild Colerne arose from informal conversations on local walks. The network of footpaths through our lovely countryside became a lifeline during the Pandemic. How could that connection and the mental health benefits of noticing and being in nature be preserved as the business of more normal life returned?

Wild Colerne is about celebrating the beauty of our surroundings and wildlife and having fun! We aim to make it easy for people with an interest in nature to connect and share knowledge and enthusiasm.

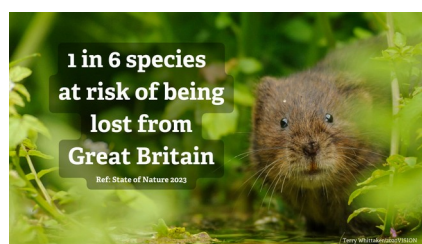
But there is a serious side. The natural environment around us is changing. An important remit of our charity is to highlight what is happening nationally, to monitor how our local wildlife is faring and work with the Community on how best to protect and create more space for nature. Our youngsters are growing up in a nature-depleted world - we want to reverse that.

Some facts that disturb us:

1 in 6 species is at risk of being lost from the UK.

- We have 73 million fewer breeding birds than in 1970,
- 80% of butterfly species have decreased in abundance and or distribution, since the 1970s; flying insects have declined by 60% since 2004,
- Hedgehogs: 95% decline since 1950s, Toads: 70% reduction over the last 30 years,
- A quarter of our mammals are at risk of extinction, and we have lost half of our hedgerows since 1945.

We are inspired by Frank Entwistle whose foresight gave Colerne Parish the legacy of 'Frank's Wood.'



Membership and Communications

Wild Colerne Facebook: 219 members

Wild Colerne email list: 120 people

Subscription paying members: 23

As well as Facebook, Wild Colerne has Instagram and Tik Tok accounts (new). We are grateful to Colerne Parish Magazine for giving us space for articles and to advertise our activities.

Our website **wildcolerne.org** went live over this Summer. It includes lots of wildlife information, tips on making a difference, an Events Diary, Photo

Gallery, Nature News and Nature's Calendar blogs. Our Policies on Safeguarding, Inclusion, Health and Safety and Data Protection are reviewed by the Trustees each year and can be viewed via the website (or on request).

Links with others

Wild Colerne is represented on the Parish Council's Working Group for Climate and Biodiversity.

We also have strong links with:

- Colerne CE Primary School's nature engagement initiatives
- Colerne St John the Baptist Eco Church work
- Wiltshire Climate Alliance
- Cotswold Wardens
- Corsham Area Hedgehog Rescue.

Funding support

We are delighted to have received the following support for some of our costs:

1. The Climate Coalition: £400 to support running costs for Wild Colerne and Parish Council Great Big Green Week Events 2022.

2. Wessex Water Foundation Environmental Fund: £2,000.



The Environment Fund supports charitable and community activities across the region that have a positive impact on the local environment. The fund is part of the Wessex Water Foundation which provides dedicated funding for projects across the Wessex Water region every year.

Our application was for start-up funding to enable us to buy equipment such as a gazebo, bat monitors, spare binoculars, presentation boards, wildflower seeds, educational nature information sheets and to help with printing and advertising costs.

Events Report

1. Village Hall talks

2022

- April 6th: "Colerne Swifts - their incredible story. Stewart Owen, Bath and District RSPB.
- May 5th: "Wildflower Lawns" (with Colerne Gardening Club) Dr Kate Petty, Lecturer in Plant Science Bath Spa University.
- May 12th: The PEBBLE Project - protecting the Bybrook and its Dippers. Connor Stapleton-Goddard, Wiltshire Wildlife Trust Water Team Project.

- Sept 29th: Nature in Colerne – how can we help it thrive. Community discussion and talk. Josh Rogers. Wiltshire Wildlife Trust.

2023

- March 30th: Tracing Wiltshire’s Woodland History. Euan McKenzie. Ancient Woodland Inventory Officer.
- June 16th: Pavement and roadside plants. Dave Green, Wiltshire botanist.
- October 17th: Bannerdown Common – its history, management, and wildlife. Rob Kendall Secretary and Land Manager, Batheaston Freeholders Association. Chris Woods, Local Naturalist.

2. Great Big Green Week Events

2021 Sept 26th: Local Nature Day with stalls.

2022 Oct 2nd: Local Nature Day. Stalls, photographic exhibition, Frank’s Wood Family Activities and Apple press.

2023 June 18th: Local Nature Day. Stalls. Churchyard Wildflower Walk photographic exhibition.

3. Wildlife Walks

- 15 Birdwatch and listen walks
- 8 Tree appreciation walks
- 4 Slow nature / bug hunt walks
- 3 Wildflower walks
- 3 Butterfly walks
- 1 Bat walk
- 1 Moth Trap reveal
- Swift nest spotting.

4. Monthly pub socials for informal nature chat.

Current Key Projects

1. Swifts

Colerne swifts’ long association with our village stems from the old-style roof tiles and eaves that survive, mainly in central Colerne. Swifts are now “red listed” as an endangered species and we know from our longer-term residents that we are losing our Colerne swifts as well. New housing makes no space for them to nest, roof refurbishment often blocks nest access, and their insect food supply is dwindling.

What we have been doing

Raising awareness:

- Village Hall talk “Colerne swifts - their incredible story” launched our Save Colerne Swifts project, April 2022.
- Welcome home’ Ringing of the church bells by Colerne Church young bell-ringing team to celebrate our swifts return in May 22 and again this year. Many thanks to Roger Haynes and the ringers for establishing this tradition.

- Swift walks to spot and log nest sightings.
- Working with the school - The Swift Poems and Pictures booklet
- Created by children in years five and six (2021-22) at Colerne Church of England Primary School. The children wrote these poems after learning about swifts in school and we are very grateful to the teachers for their support. The booklet **contains lots of swift information** - available from Bright's Village store or via info@wildcolerne.org.
- Information leaflets and posters in shops and Colerne Cafe display.
- Information leaflets for households living in swift hotspot areas.
- Promoting swift nest boxes.
- Exploring feasibility of adding nest boxes to the Church tower. Thanks to the Church for facilitating this.
- Promoting bug friendly gardens.

2. Skylarks

We are blessed by the sound of Skylarks above Armstrong's field at the back of the school, yet another iconic species on the endangered "Red list." Ground nesting birds like skylarks are particularly vulnerable to disturbance from free running dogs and walkers unaware of their presence.

What we have been doing

"Skylarks are nesting in this meadow" information poster (Designed by Bob Child) has helped ensure a successful breeding season.

3. Hedgehogs

Were added to the "Red List" as vulnerable to extinction in Great Britain in 2020. Our parish and gardens are an important refuge for their survival.

What we have been doing

Raising awareness:

* To celebrate Hedgehog Awareness week 30th April - 6th May, arranged for Corsham Area Hedgehog Rescue to host a stall in the Market Place, alongside a wonderful display of hedgehog drawings and information from Colerne Primary School children. Our thanks to the School.

* Social media posts to highlight the risks they face and where to get advice.

4. Wildflowers and pollinators

97% of our wildflower meadows have been lost since the 1930s and the distribution of 54% of flowering plants has shrunk since 1970.

Our insects are also in trouble - Colerne youngsters born in 2004 have seen a 64% decline in flying insects by the time they reach 18.

What we have been doing



- * Promotion of “No Mow May” and nature friendly gardening.
- * Village Hall talks on Wildflower Lawns and Pavement Plants.
- * Arranged a Wildflower walk in our lovely Churchyard with Wiltshire Botanist, Dave Green.
- * Wildflower and insect themed nature stalls.
- * Thickwood Verge volunteer clearance work to reclaim a verge previously protected for its floral diversity.
- * Volunteer parties to rake and sow yellow rattle seeds at Watergates to encourage wildflowers. Liaising with the Parish Council for solution as failure of contractors to cut at the right time has

undermined progress, with failure of yellow rattle (known as a meadow maker as it weakens grass growth) growth and wildflowers choked by long grass and wild cherry saplings.

- * Spring bulb planting Bath Rd.
- * Supported a Bug hunt in the playground and bug collage workshop at Colerne Primary with local artist Marian Hill, and moth trap opening.
- * Family Minibeast Hunt in Frank’s Wood.
- * Moth trap reveal event after overnight moth trap-so many amazing moths!

5. Trees and Hedges

Our Parish has some wonderful trees - but the old adage “the best time to plant a tree is 15 years ago” has added urgency.

We have some wonderful old oak trees but, apart from in Frank’s Wood, a dearth of young new generation oak. Our lanes and green spaces and fields will be losing the shade as our Ash trees die - just as our Summers are becoming hotter. We need a plan with the principle of “right tree in the right place” and - as hedges provide a vital corridor of habitat for our wildlife - we need more!

What we have been doing

- * Growing saplings from seeds collected locally to provide a source of local saplings for tree and hedge planting when places identified for planting (root trainers provided via the “Copse in a Box initiative” from the Tree Council).
- * Encouraging appreciation of trees by hosting tree walks through the seasons.
- * Waiting for the results of Parish Council Tree survey and input from Wiltshire Council funding Tree wardens (when training complete) to be a source of volunteers.

6. Health of our brooks

What we have been doing

* River-fly Monitoring, in partnership with Wiltshire Wildlife Trust. Many thanks to Saltbox Farm for facilitating. Our river fly monitor takes water samples, the numbers of eight key groups of invertebrates are counted and used to calculate a score which feeds into a national database used to monitor the health of the rivers across.

* Took part in the Bristol Avon RiverBlitz, an annual citizen science event run by Bristol Avon Riverside Trust which provides a snapshot of water quality and ecological health in the rivers and streams across the catchment.

Looking to the future.

We are actively seeking people's views and ideas to shape our programme of events and possible projects. We will be shortly circulating a poll which can be completed on-line or as paper version to help capture opinions.

Trial Balance Report for the year ended 31/10/2023

Category	Debit (£)	Credit (£)
Equipment	595.00	0.00
Sales	0.00	40.95
Ticket Sales	0.00	230.00
Member Subscriptions	0.00	216.08
Donations	0.00	26.45
Grants	0.00	2,000.00
Product Sales	0.00	104.00
Catering Sales	0.00	62.50
Goods and Materials	76.12	0.00
Speakers / Presenters	75.00	0.00
Venue Hire	46.00	0.00
Rent	14.40	0.00
Business Rates	35.00	0.00
Internet Costs	86.84	0.00
Stationery	15.28	0.00
Business Insurance	100.80	0.00
Website & Software Costs	63.57	0.00
Stock Written Off	39.45	0.00
Co-Op Community Plus (Wild Colerne)	1,764.97	0.00
Duncan Robertson Director's Loan Account	0.20	0.00
Amount owed to suppliers	0.00	63.57
Profit & Loss Account	0.00	169.08
Total:	2,912.63	2,912.63