

Wilding Wimborne Oct 18th 2023 – April 5th 2025 report

In May 2023 the group decided that Wilding Wimborne had grown sufficiently to stand on its own. We thank Wimborne War on Waste for the financial and administrative support which had enabled the group to establish itself. Wilding Wimborne became a CIO on 18th October 2023.

Objectives The object of Wilding Wimborne the CIO is:

- (1) To promote for the benefit of the public the conservation, protection and improvement of the physical and natural environment with the aim of advancing biodiversity in Wimborne and the surrounding area to create and promote bio-diverse habitats for insects and other wildlife.
- (2) To advance the education and engagement of the public in biodiversity and the importance of insects and other wildlife in the environment.

Finance

In order to support the CIO we opened a CAF (Charities Aid Foundation) bank account. Wimborne War on Waste transferred £507 of our funds remaining in their account. We now have administrative costs such as PLI to address. We were fortunate to be given a £1000 grant from Colehill Burial ground. In addition to the grant, we received business and public donations. The total income for the report period was £2047 and expenses £322.

The original aims for the group were set in January 2020 based on the 'Action for Insects' report by Professor Dave Goulson. These were reviewed and amended in November 2022 and remain unchanged in for the duration of this report.

Aim 1, Awareness and Events

Our aim is to raise awareness of our objectives through events. The main events were Earth-day and Planet Wimborne Green Festival. We also ran events such as Moth trapping, River Dipping, Bird ringing and walks detailed in further objects to follow. We reached all levels of the public from children to older people and feedback was very supportive and positive. As a result we increased our contacts and volunteers. We attended events organised by other local groups. Planet Wimborne Networking, the Wimborne gardening club summer show. We created a bookmark showing aims and contact details.

Aim 2 Harmful impact

At each event we showcased alternatives to using pesticides and peat. We produced two leaflets with details of alternative solutions. We talked to the public about light pollution and the impact on night time wildlife. We discussed the use of flea treatments on dogs and the impact on the invertebrates when they enter the river. We joined forces with other local groups to raise the issue of the use of toxic chemicals with Wimborne Town Council and they agreed not to use glyphosate on any of the land they owned. We also joined forces to raise the issue with Dorset Council; not as successful but they confirm they will only use it in exceptional circumstances.

Aim 3 Habitats

Bees. Our solitary Bees bee trail continues to be maintained and enhanced. We have had a number of new boxes made and replaced two of the existing once that needed repair. We

have been involved in explaining that solitary bees are very small and don't sting to help support installing the homes.

Bats. We purchased 10 bat boxes and donated the first two to the local Museum. Others have been installed around the town with guidance and instructions for the installation. We organised a bat walk with support from Dorset Wildlife Trust and were able to identify 6 different species along the river Stour.

Swifts. A new subgroup was created to address the serious decline of Swift in Wimborne. The group undertook surveys of existing nest sites as well as identifying potential new sites. Volunteers and the local scouts have made nest boxes ready for the next season. A swift awareness event was held in Wimborne square.

Aim 4 Flora

We again organised the 'Seedy April' where we offer either free seeds or to swap seeds to encourage people to grow more wildlife friendly flowers and veg. This has proved very successful with people donating seeds and money to enable it to run in future years. We share hints and tips on growing flowers, fruit and veg at our events which has also proved popular.

Aim 5: Trees

Using the i-Tree Canopy tool the tree coverage for Wimborne is round to be 14%. The Tree group set a target to increase the canopy to closer to 20%. Working with Dorset Council the group have planted over 2000 trees on the local SANGS (suitable alternate natural green space). Apart from the planting in this year, work has been ongoing to maintain and support the trees planted in the previous season.

The second focus of the group was the decline of the black poplar and the team worked to identify the few genuine existing trees in Dorset and grow cuttings. These cuttings having grown to a good size and working with the local land owners are being planted close to the local River Allen. In addition we have run several walks. One in Canford School Aboretum and one the history of trees from Colehill to Wimborne. These have been very well attended with positive feedback.

Aim 6 People and nature

Along with the events and walks already described we held walks at Stanbridge Mill following the course of the river Allen and the amazing wildlife. We gave talks to several groups on Wildlife Friendly gardening and how people can encourage wildlife while benefiting themselves. These have been very well received and requests to repeat them again have been made.

Aim 7 Rivers

This group is focusing on the local rivers Allen and Stour. Working with Dorset Wildlife trust we have river fly monitors sampling on the Allen and Stour. We also have Water guardians. In addition several of the group have signed up to the Earthwatch river testing. We are engaging in other local groups and projects. Wimborne Angling Club and River Allen landscape recovery project for example. With the latter project we held a very successful talk at the Planet Wimborne Green Festival. The event was packed with a very positive and lively question and answers.

Future Plans for 2025 – 2026

We plan to continue on our aims and repeat the events that have proved successful. We aim to increase our impact leaflets. We will increase the homes on the bee trail and there is interest in creating a hedgehog group due to the decline in numbers. We will work with Dorset Mammal group on that. The swift group now have plans to site swift boxes following many requests from the local people. The tree group have further plans to support the existing planting and adding some larger trees in areas agreed with Dorset Council. The river group have been invited to a river Allen working group from the Wimborne Minster Town Council. We recognise that to continue to be successful we must increase our volunteer base so we will have a focus on that in line with any activities we undertake.

Wilding Wimborne Accounts 18/10/2023 - 05/04/25				
Date	Item	£ Out	£ In	
17/11/23	Table cloth & runner	£7342		
	Opening Balance			
02.05.24	Poole & Wimborne woodland burial ground		£100000	
03.05.24	Cash donations from recent events		£5286	
15.05.24	Payment to Summers & Co for Insurance	£15267		
15.05.24	Monthly account fee CAF Bank	£500		
20.05.24	Cash donations from Seeds		£4011	
30.05.24	Wessex Water donation for Trees For Wimborne		£40000	
06.06.24	Payment to Trees for Dorset subscription	£2000		
17.06.24	Monthly account fee CAF Bank	£500		
26.06.24	Interest from CAF Bank		£042	
27.06.24	Swift group donation		£20000	
08.07.24	Swift group donation		£10000	
15.07.24	Monthly account fee CAF Bank	£500		
29.07.24	Swift stickers payment to Sam	£2099		
15.08.24	Monthly account fee CAF Bank	£500		
16.09.24	Monthly account fee CAF Bank	£500		
26.09.24	Interest from CAF Bank		£109	
15.10.24	Monthly account fee CAF Bank	£500		
15.11.24	Monthly account fee CAF Bank	£500		
16.12.24	Monthly account fee CAF Bank	£500		
27.12.24	Interest from CAF Bank		£106	
15.01.25	Monthly account fee CAF Bank	£500		
20.01.25	Swift group donation		£20000	
17.02.25	Monthly account fee CAF Bank	£500		
21.02.25	Online transfer from Wimborne Minster PCC		£5000	
17.03.25	Monthly account fee CAF Bank	£500		
26.03.25	Interest from CAF Bank		£113	
		Expenditure	Income	
	TOTAL	£32208	£204667	
			Breakdown of Income	
			£100000	Grant
			£104667	Donation