



Action on Climate in Teignbridge's Wildlife Warden Scheme's quarterly report to funders and supporters 15.07.21



www.actionclimateteignbridge.org

The scheme continues to develop:

- Audrey contacted all Parish Councils that didn't already have a Wildlife Warden to explain what the scheme is about and ask if they could help us to find Wildlife Wardens; this has been quite successful.
- 85 people have applied to be a Wildlife Warden. This covers 34 of the 54 Teignbridge Parishes and Newton Abbot Wards.
- 68 Wildlife Wardens have now completed introductory training.

Training:

- Since the last report, Flavio and Audrey have provided a further 3 introductory training sessions to 13 new Wildlife Wardens. This has been achieved using the introductory training handout, followed by meetings on Zoom.
- 20/04/21 and 24/04/21 – Dave and Sue Smallshire provided training in Aquatic Invertebrate Identification at Stover Country Park to 12 Wildlife Wardens.
- 05/06/21 – Audrey provided Wildflower Identification training at Orley Common nature reserve to 5 Wildlife Wardens.
- 08/06/21 – Jess Smallcombe from the DBRC gave a training talk, on Zoom, about how Wildlife Wardens can become involved in recording wildlife. A link to the recording was put on the ACT website.
- 24/06/21 - Audrey and Flavio held a meeting on Zoom to discuss Planning Issues with 13 Wildlife Wardens. The 2020-2040 Local Plan consultation was one of the main topics covered. Shortly after the meeting, a document put together by Audrey was sent to all Wildlife Wardens and Ecology Group members with advice on how to respond to the Local Plan on ecological issues.
- 17/07/21 – Dave and Sue Smallshire will provide a training session in dragonfly identification for Wildlife Wardens as part of the British Dragonfly Societies events during Dragonfly Week. 9 Wildlife Wardens have signed up to this session.

Site visits and events:

- 11/05/21 – Audrey and Flavio visited a smallholding near Exminster with a local Wildlife Warden to give the landowner advice on how to manage their land for wildlife.
- 16/06/21 – Amanda Keetley and Amy Harker, from the Devon Environment Foundation (one of our main funders), visited us to see some of the amazing projects that our Wildlife Wardens have been working on. We visited projects across 6 Teignbridge parishes and Newton Abbot Wards, met up with 13 Wildlife Wardens and discussed many different projects.
- 18/06/21 – Audrey visited Shaldon Approach Golf course with Mark Payne (TDC's grounds team) to provide advice on potential management changes which will benefit wildlife and which local WWs could get involved with.
- 19/06/21 – The Chudleigh Wild group (3 members of this group are Wildlife Wardens) gave a tour of their projects to 6 Wildlife Wardens from other parishes. Lots of useful ideas and advice were exchanged.
- 23/06/21 – Audrey visited a development site at Chudleigh with the owner, developer, Town Councillors and key Chudleigh Wild members. Hopefully a blue-print on 'how to develop well'?
- 30/06/21 and 08/06/21 – Flavio and Audrey organised 2 visits to see Ambios' rewilding project at Lower Sharpham Farm. 16 Wildlife Wardens attended these guided walks.

- 04/07/21 – Flavio spoke about the Wildlife Warden Scheme at the Devon Local Nature Partnership's stand at the Devon County Show.
- 10/07/21 – Flavio and Audrey spoke about the Wildlife Warden Scheme and helped at an event organised by the Ogwild group (5 members of this group are Wildlife Wardens).

An overview of some current Wildlife Warden Projects:

- Commenting on the 2020-2040 Local Plan consultation and sharing any comments with ACT so that we can incorporate them into ACT's response.
- Commenting on local planning applications.
- Writing a complaint to the MMO on the dredging of Exmouth Marina and the deposition of sludge in Lyme Bay.
- In the planning stages of creating a new orchard on village hall land.
- Conducting botanical surveys of churchyards and submitting records on iRecord.
- Successfully applying for Tree Preservation Orders.
- Raising awareness of littering by creating a sculpture out of litter.
- Planting hedgerows.
- Taking over the management of a 5-acre field owned by the Woodland Trust. Holding a large event for the public (100+ people) at this site. This was made possible by ACT's insurance and the Leading Volunteers training module, which Audrey provided to a group of Wildlife Wardens.
- Creating wildflower meadows in cemeteries and managing verges for wildflowers.
- Speaking about wildlife at local events.
- Talking about conservation at a local Parish Council meeting.
- Providing land management advice.
- In the planning stages of creating a nature trail with help from the local council.
- Promoting 'no mow may' and the 'blue heart campaign'.

Ecology Group Supporting the WWs:

- **Providing training:** Dave Smallshire and Sue Smallshire have helped massively by providing training sessions for Wildlife Wardens (see above).
- **Jules** has created an email alert system and a search facility on the ACT website to help Wildlife Wardens find planning applications.

Working with other groups:

- The DBRC are providing support and guidance to our Wildlife Wardens on recording wildlife. In return, we hope to provide the DBRC with lots of useful records!
- 28/06/21 – Audrey worked with the Devon Local Nature Partnership to help develop their new Wild About Devon Scheme. Audrey presented a talk about ACT's Wildlife Warden Scheme at the launch and narrated the animation that was used to promote the launch.
- 29/06/21 – Flavio had a meeting, on Zoom, with Phoebe Russell from Torridge District Council, who would like to develop a similar scheme to ours, with the aim of providing volunteering opportunities for young people.
- 06/07/21 – Flavio spoke at a Teignmouth Town Council meeting about a statement, addressed to the MMO, that he and a couple of Wildlife Wardens had written on the dredging of Exmouth Marina and deposition of sludge in Lyme Bay. TTC decided to endorse ACT's statement and will write to the MMO themselves. The statement has also been shared with TDC.

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