



Worlington Pump

February / March 2022

Bird Talk

In the last Pump I bemoaned the dearth of blackbirds in our garden. A friend suggested that I put out meal worms to coax them back and it worked almost instantly. I am sure they would have come back anyway with the supply of natural food diminishing as the winter progressed but it is fun to watch them gobbling up the meal worms so eagerly which has added another dimension to the pleasure we get from our garden birds. If you don't use meal worms do try them out.

The worms have also attracted a couple of magpies who have previously visited the garden only fleetingly. They are smart looking birds & they don't quarrel with the blackbirds but I am not sure how I feel about having them in the garden in the spring when all the new born are around.

Incidentally, if I put meal worms out in the late afternoon they are invariably all gone by the morning. I haven't got a camera trap but I strongly suspect and hope that hedgehogs are the beneficiaries. A couple of years ago I was trying to catch squirrels in the garden with a humane trap, but all I ever found in the trap were blackbirds and hedgehogs so I am sure that they are roaming around at night.

You will doubtless have seen the depressing news announced on 1st December last year that 25% of UK birds are now on the Red List. There are many reasons but the big ones are climate change plus loss of habitat.

That swifts have joined the list is no surprise but I can hardly believe that birds I still think of as common are now on the list – green finches, chaffinches, starlings, sparrows and others. As recently as ten years ago they were daily garden visitors but we haven't had a greenfinch for years nor a chaffinch. There are still starlings around on Church Lane but sadly none come to visit us. We are so grateful that the sparrows are abundant in our vicinity & give endless pleasure. Dog walkers often stop to listen and watch them on Ann Thornally's sparrow hedge.



Vicar's Words

We apologise to our readers but the original article has had to be withdrawn.

The Editor

All Saints Church Services

Sunday 6 th February	11:00 am	Holy Communion
Sunday 20 th February	11:00 am	Holy Communion
Wednesday 2 nd March	7:00 pm	Holy Communion (St. Peter's, West Row)
Sunday 6 th March	10:45 am	Holy Communion
Sunday 20 th March	11:00 am	Holy Communion

There are also services every Sunday on-line. If you would like to join us then please contact the Vicar.

Team Vicar	Rev'd David Everett	01638 718801 david.j.everett24@gmail.com
Elder	Heath Rosselli	01638 717337
Churchwarden	Mrs Shirley Reeder	01638 716096
Treasurer	Elizabeth Klingaman	01638 711642

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Tuesday Coffee Morning

All Saints' Church, Worlington

Tuesday 22nd February, 10:30 am - 12:00 noon

Tuesday 29th March, 10:30 am - 12:00 noon

Join us for coffee and homemade biscuits. If you haven't been before, do join us and meet your friends and neighbours. We would love to see you! *Anne & Val*

Hythe Update

Mid-December saw the eventual delivery of the saplings from the Woodland Trust and, with the help of about a dozen parishioners these were all planted along the edges of the woods to eventually create a forest edge habitat which will provide shelter, nesting sites and food for birds and animals for years to come. A very big thank you to all those who came to lend a hand.

The areas that had been left to go wild with thistles, nettles and native plant species have been cut back in preparation for the new growth in the spring. The bluebells as you enter from ferry drove are already beginning to show through as are the ones planted around the bases of the trees.

New pathways have been cut through the woods itself and the site at the far end has been cleared. All that remains to be done is to purchase a few more picnic benches and to erect some seats at various points throughout the site.

As well as the bat survey that was conducted in 2021 we are hoping to carry out a number of other surveys. The aim is to create some information boards to be installed at the Hythe to give people an idea of the sorts of wildlife that can be found there, and in what areas.

Whilst the majority of the work is now completed, there will, as with all projects be things that crop up that need to be addressed; but any future clearance works will be left until the winter months.

If you haven't been down to see what has been done I encourage you to do so. It is a lovely peaceful slice of countryside and there for all to use. With the full length of the site now opened up there are plenty of areas to go and sit peacefully, take the family or enjoy with your four legged friends.

Nick Foster

Date for copy for the next edition by: **Tuesday 22nd March**. Please send articles to Rob Garry (01638 715611) pump@worlington.org.uk or Ellen Clowes (01638 712043) ellen.clowes@btinternet.com. Thanks.

Bird Photographer of the Year

A copy of the Bird Photographer of the Year book has been generously donated to the church from a Swift Enthusiast and will remain permanently in the church for anyone to look at. It is a particular poignant gift as it includes photographs of the late Judith Wakelam who did so much to help the Swifts in Suffolk.



The book can be ordered from the NHBS website:

<https://www.nhbs.com/bird-photographer-of-the-year-collection-5-book>



continued from the front cover

Despite the gloom there is plenty we can do with the wildlife press being full of advice these last two months. Three things caught my eye which I will now pass on although I realise that if you are reading this I am likely writing to the converted.

I was startled to read that the 22 million private gardens make up 5% of the land in the UK which is as much as all protected nature reserves put together – RSPB Magazine Winter/Spring 2022. They go on to offer loads of common sense advice on how to use our gardens to best advantage for birds & other wild life as well. What has struck me is just what an opportunity there is here for millions of garden owners to make a huge collective impact with not necessarily a great deal of extra effort. The hope is that the urgency of the situation will prompt people to become more aware of the possible impact that they can make and motivate them to make that impact.

Secondly, a friend from Swift Conservation sent me an eye opening, for me anyway, article on insects. Insects have been around for 400 million years and there are millions of them; 300,000 types of beetle alone. The planet wouldn't function without them – they pollinate, control pests, recycle organic matter from dung to corpses and tree trunks and of course provide food for other wildlife particularly birds; but they are in apocalyptic decline and humans will be pushed to survive without them.

The author, Dave Goulson, suggests “Grow a single marjoram plant, perhaps in a pot, and when it blooms I guarantee that bees and hoverflies will sniff it out. You can feel smug that you have done something to help; then do something more.” Another thing he, and many others, suggests is that we become a bit less neat in our gardens and a bit lazier perhaps. Let it get a bit wilder, don't cut back stuff that doesn't really need to be cut back – let the insects thrive.

The third issue is that in January the Government announced that they want to replace the Common Agricultural Policy with a National Land Management Scheme. The idea has had a mixed reception which will prompt much discussion and argument.

However, I am encouraged that they recognise that reclaiming lost habitat for wildlife and encouraging enlightened farming techniques are central issues - rewilding not unwilding. To add local emphasis to the move in this direction the theme of the Suffolk Wildlife Trust's winter magazine, just out in mid January is, Wilder Future – Rewilding Suffolk – let nature lead the way. Any scheme that passes on millions of £s of tax money to landowners and/or farmers, or any other group of beneficiaries, needs very careful monitoring but the principles look right to me.

Don MacBean



Say No to Sunnica Community Action Group UPDATE January 2022

The Sunnica application was accepted for examination by The Planning Inspectorate (PINS) on 16th December 21, it now moves into the pre-examination phase. Just to clarify - this **DOES NOT** mean the planning permission or final Development Consent Order has been granted.

Next steps:

The start of the pre-examination phase will be announced and advertised by Sunnica *any day*. We will also publicise this date and can help you with registration. Your Parish council should be able to support too.

Pre-examination

- Pre-examination lasts approximately 3 months.
- **To have your opinions heard YOU MUST register as an Interested Party by submitting your concerns about the scheme to the Planning Inspectorate** (this is called a Relevant Representation).
- **We need as many people as possible, from all the affected villages and towns, to provide Relevant Representations**, so that PINS can fully gauge the sentiments of the local residents who will be living with this scheme.
- ANYONE can register, including multiple people from same household. Relevant Representations are no more than 500 written words and must be submitted within 4-6 weeks of the accepted application being published. Once you are registered as an Interested Party you can make more detailed representations, greater than 500 words. **Please start drafting yours NOW!**
- The easiest way to submit a Relevant Representation and register as an Interested party is using the online form on the PINS website. Please call PINS on 0303 444 5000 to request a hard copy of this form if you cannot access the online version.

If you do not register within the limited time during the Pre-examination phase, your views cannot be heard at the Examination.

There is more useful information and links on our website: <https://www.saynotosunnica.com/>

This is also a useful film:

<https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/application-process/participating-in-the-process/>

SHOUT OUT:

Do you, or someone you know, have knowledge or expertise in ecology, landscape, or heritage to help us scrutinise various sections of the Sunnica scheme?

Your community needs your help now, please contact the Action Group email: saynotosunnica@mail.com

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