

WILDER GARDENS PROJECTS 2023

FEBRUARY 2023 A QUESTIONNAIRE WAS DELIVERED TO EVERY RESIDENT IN THE VILLAGE



Wilder Wenhaston - pathway to a greener future

WILDER GARDENS SURVEY

2023

Creating a wildlife friendly garden, or area within a garden, to provide habitats for wildlife and the plants that support them is important to maintain biodiversity in our local landscape. Even small changes can be effective in enhancing the garden to support wildlife and can help to create wildlife corridors throughout the village improving feeding opportunities and habitat for birds, insects, and mammals.

Can you help us build a better picture of what is already being done within the parish boundary? Please complete the short questionnaire below and return it to the 'Wilder Wenhaston (survey)' pocket in the Village Hall. Alternatively, it can be sent out to you by email to complete and return: contact us at wilderwenhaston@gmail.com using 'Wilder Gardens Survey' as subject heading.

WILDER GARDENS SURVEY		
1	a. Do you leave an uncultivated area in your garden/tended specifically for wildlife? b. Do you use plants specifically for wildlife/as pollinators?	Yes/No Y/N
2	<u>BUGS:</u> a) Are you aware of the insects in your garden? b) Do you have a bug hotel? <u>BIRDS:</u> a) Do you put food out for birds in your garden? b) Do you have bird feeders? c) Do you have any nest boxes? <u>BEASTS</u> a) Are you aware of seeing/seen signs of any of the following in your garden? b) Frogs c) Grass snakes d) Hedgehogs e) Is there a route through boundaries for hedgehogs to move to a neighbouring garden/area?	Y/N Y/N Y/N Y/N Y/N Y/N Y/N Y/N Y/N
3	Is your garden a) A whole garden for wildlife? b) Or a smaller wildlife area within your garden?	Y/N Y/N
4	Are any of these in your garden? (Including any season): a) Trees b) Shrubs c) Hedgerows d) Wildflowers e) Long grass area/s	Y/N Y/N Y/N Y/N Y/N
5	a) Do you have a wildlife pond (i.e. not for fish)? b) A different sort of water area e.g. a sink	Y/N Y/N
6	Do you have any water butts?	Y/N
7	Do you compost garden/kitchen waste?	Y/N
8	How else do you garden for wildlife, not mentioned above? Please write on the reverse side.	

Thank you for completing our survey. Please supply contact details below, including email & address* (or area of the village you live in) and we will share the survey results with you. Survey findings will guide next steps in this Wilder Wenhaston project so that we each can do more to make our "Wilder Gardens".

*NB Any information supplied will be treated confidentially (as per GDPR guidance). If an email address is provided it will only be used to update you on this project or inform you of future Wilder Wenhaston activity/events.

WILDER GARDENS SURVEY OUTCOMES SUMMARY 9th March 2023

Creating a wildlife friendly garden, or area within a garden, to provide habitats for wildlife and the plants that support them is important to maintain biodiversity in our local landscape. Wilder Wenhaston decided a good beginning for its sub-project group on wilder gardens, was to establish a base-line survey of all gardens in the parish. A blank survey questionnaire was distributed to all residents in the Wenhaston with Mells parish via February 2023's edition of the Wenhaston Warbler. **At end of March 2023, we had a total of 90 returns the results are below.**

		Yes	No
1	a) Do you leave an uncultivated area in your garden/tended specifically for wildlife? b) Do you use plants specifically for wildlife/as pollinators?	59 72	18 11
2	<u>BUGS:</u> c) Are you aware of the insects in your garden? d) Do you have a bug hotel? <u>BIRDS:</u> d) Do you put food out for birds in your garden? e) Do you have bird feeders? f) Do you have any nest boxes? <u>BEASTS</u> Are you aware of seeing/seen signs of any of the following in your garden? f) Frogs g) Grass snakes h) Hedgehogs i) Is there a route through boundaries for hedgehogs to move to a neighbouring garden/area?	83 40 80 78 65 45 32 53 76	8 49 10 23 24 42 55 35 12
3	Is your garden c) A whole garden for wildlife? d) Or a smaller wildlife area within your garden?	31 51	44 24
4	Are any of these in your garden? (Including any season): f) Trees g) Shrubs h) Hedgerows i) Wildflowers j) Long grass area/s	85 89 75 74 58	5 0 12 10 28
5	c) Do you have a wildlife pond (i.e. not one for ornamental fish)? d) A different sort of water area e.g. a sink	36 37	50 43
6	Do you have any water butts?	78	12
7	Do you compost garden/kitchen waste?	61	26
8	Do you garden for wildlife in ways not mentioned above? Find answer given <i>on the reverse</i>	12	10

Respondents invited to add further information about their gardens:

1. 90 percent of garden is aimed to help wildlife; pond has areas for hedgehogs to get out; Hedgehog shelter used in past years.
2. Log pile and 2 or 3 piles of leaves & twigs
3. Help friends create wildlife areas, read and keep up with latest news, I know a number of people in Wenhaston who'd like to have a wildlife friendly garden however, they don't know what to do or where to begin. Arranging a speaker or two will be helpful.
4. No dig organic veg patch; leave dried stalks overwinter; mow paths only through grass.
5. Log piles left for wildlife.
6. Plants chosen to attract insects, bees, butterflies etc. Aim to garden organically.
7. Leave lawn for wildflowers in summer. Leave seeding shrubs for winter. Don't leave bare soil areas. Flowers and shrubs which are good for bees and butterflies. Don't use pesticides or inorganic fertilisers or weed killer. Have a hedgehog house.
8. No pesticides, fungicides, herbicides.
9. Slow worm seen. Most garden area has nectar bearing plants or dry grass for birds to forage. Bark mulch harbours insects. Nettle margins to hedge. Extensive ivy growth for pollen and berries.
10. Not seen frogs in recent years. Route through front gate only.
11. Some bits are wilder than others.
12. The garden is planted with numerous flowering plants for birds and insects. The garden area is 80sq much of which is laid to lawn.
13. Bird bath. Log piles near pond.
14. Bird baths.
15. No chemicals or cut grass mechanically hedges cut in new year trimmings rot down in heaps.
16. Swift nests in eaves, birds and insects visit.
17. Access under main gate, hibernaculum, log pile, rock pile.
18. Foot wide strip down side of building for wildlife and a bird bath.
19. Planting natural hedge replace lilac; planted birch in a strip to protect indigenous saplings. Trim hedges at end of nesting. Apply white to windows once fledglings hatch to prevent window strikes. Keep road potholes to slow traffic for wildlife.
20. Wildflower meadow seasonal, harvest seeds from wildflower area to re-seed areas or grow on.
21. Wetland and meadow wild flowers. Multiple small wildlife areas within garden.
22. Hedgehog home; Bat boxes and in attic; bees in old chimney; slow worms in hedge and compost bin; toad in diff compost bin; stone area for newts to overwinter.
23. Several bird baths and animal bath for drinking.
24. No pesticides and all weeding done by hand.
25. Only use organic fertilisers.
26. Bug hotel is log pile. Wildlife and bee friendly planting.
27. Frogs, grass snakes and Hedgehogs not seen recently.
28. Toads not frogs.
29. Large area of undergrowth; ours is a small garden but we make sure there is food & undergrowth for birds & insects
30. at all times of the year; and food for the hedgehog. Flowers through the seasons for the bees etc.
31. With our thatch, there is plenty of places for insects.
32. Don't use insecticides, pesticides or herbicides. Seen toads not frogs - grass snake ate frogs.
33. Pile of logs; bird feeders unused due to local noise; slow worms seen.
34. I grow bee and insect loving flowers
35. Organic garden; managed overall for wildlife; no toxic chemicals used; swifts nest in eaves,

Summary of key comments written on reverse of survey sheet:

Organic approach to gardening:

- many actively avoid using chemicals e.g pesticides/non-organic fertilizer/weed - killers in the garden

Water sources:

- included birdbaths, a pond fitted with exit route in case a hedgehog falls in,
- others missed frogs visiting the garden

Safe hiding places:

- Log piles (dead wood) featured- unstructured alternative to bug hotels.
- Also bark mulch as insect friendly habitat.

Leaving Wildflower and wild grassy areas:

- mentioned with pollinators for insects and seeding shrubs
- ivy left as natural bird and insect food sources into autumn/winter.

Homes provided:

- for swifts and hedgehogs.

Using the leftovers:

- Leaving undergrowth hedge trimmings (and leaves) to rot down in piles
- composting garden waste to reuse

ARTICLE IN WENHASTON WARBLER MAY 2023 COMMUNICATING SURVEY OUTCOME TO RESIDENTS.

Thank you to the **90** residents who completed a garden survey form. This is a statistically valid number, equal to 22.5% of all residents. The overall results are shown below. We received many useful comments but unable to include them here – you'll find them on the Wilder Wenhaston website. We shall use the responses below and comments received, to encourage each other to make our gardens more wildlife friendly and increase habitats across the village.

		Yes	No
1	a) Do you leave an uncultivated area in your garden/tended specifically for wildlife? b) Do you use plants specifically for wildlife/as pollinators?	59 72	18 11
2	<u>BUGS:</u> e) Are you aware of the insects in your garden? f) Do you have a bug hotel? <u>BIRDS:</u> g) Do you put food out for birds in your garden? h) Do you have bird feeders? i) Do you have any nest boxes? <u>BEASTS</u> Are you aware of seeing/seen signs of any of the following in your garden? j) Frogs k) Grass snakes l) Hedgehogs m) Is there a route through boundaries for hedgehogs to move to a neighbouring garden/area?	83 40 80 78 65 45 32 53 76	8 49 10 23 24 42 55 35 12
3	Is your garden e) A whole garden for wildlife? f) Or a smaller wildlife area within your garden?	31 51	44 24
4	Are any of these in your garden? (Including any season): k) Trees l) Shrubs m) Hedgerows n) Wildflowers o) Long grass area/s	85 89 75 74 58	5 0 12 10 28
5	e) Do you have a wildlife pond (i.e. not one for ornamental fish)? f) A different sort of water area e.g. a sink	36 37	50 43
6	Do you have any water butts?	78	12
7	Do you compost garden/kitchen waste?	61	26
8	Do you garden for wildlife in ways not mentioned above?	12	10

Our next step is to organise a Wilder Garden Trail – see save the date advert opposite



“Wilder Gardens Trail”

***Save the date:
Sunday 4th June 2023 2-5pm***

A number of gardens will be opening for a Wenhaston Wilder Garden Trail. Visitors will be able to gather ideas on features which promote wildlife – including ponds, planting, hedgehogs and insects.

Each garden is a ‘work in progress’. Hosts will be happy to talk about their gardens; what’s worked and what’s been less successful. They’ll be interested to hear what you are doing.

See June’s Warbler and village noticeboards for Trail details.

For Sunday 4th June the Wilder Wenhaston Garden and Pond subgroup, that is Tony G, Sue G, Judy M, Ann F, Jill D & Mike G, planned everything possible to make the Wilder Garden Trail enjoyable, informative, safe, and fun for those taking part; an opportunity for seeing and exchanging ideas about improving our gardens for wildlife. The only thing left to chance was the weather! Thankfully, it was as beautiful a June day as we could possibly have asked for. A rough tally showed between 50 and 80 visitors per garden, an amazing response especially given other garden events in the near area that weekend. Delicious home-baked goods and refreshments were offered at either end of the village and were enjoyed by hungry and thirsty garden 'Trailers'.

The gardens chosen for the trail were selected based on responses given to, and interest shown in, the Wilder Garden Survey, completed by 95-households earlier this year. We wanted to be able to showcase a variety of approaches and ideas of ways to 'Garden for Wildlife'. In those chosen part, or most, of the garden is maintained to benefit wildlife in its many forms: insects, birds, and mammals by providing good food and water sources as well as nesting or breeding environments. Questions asked on the day, and feedback since, suggests this strategy was effective.

So much work goes into planning an event like this that it is very rewarding when it goes as well as this did. We are truly thankful for all who joined in the trail from near and far (I understand our furthest visitors travelled from Felixstowe!). Thanks to those who contributed baked goods, to Becky Canham- talented designer of the map and poster artwork- and, not least, the nine 'wilder' gardens/ers who kindly opened them to be visited. Most of us were able to enjoy a preview Trail on Friday and loved what we saw, coming away with new ideas to try out at home. We hope you did too.

Look out for us on a stall at the Village Show on July 16th where we will have a display about, and photos of, the day, such as the front garden mini meadow, with mown paths, as below. There will also be information about other exciting projects that Wilder Wenhaston have underway. You are most welcome to take part in any you are interested in- email wilderwenhaston@gmail.com for more information.



Judy Miller (on behalf of the Wilder Wen

