

**Greening Chiddingly Meeting
Thursday 24 October 2024
Village Shop, Muddles Green**

Notes

Attendees

David Nash (Chair)	Tina Letanka	Helen Denning
Mark Valleley (Secretary)	Gail Giles	

Apologies

Peter Gunner	Sue McHale
--------------	------------

Item	Action
Actions from previous meeting	
1. Actions from last meeting were reviewed	
1.1.1 School Colouring Competition – Mark to purchase prizes (nest boxes) and distribute to children on return from school holidays	MV
1.1.2 Possible screening of nature related films – licensing and cost issues too complex - recommended that group members raise awareness via social media when they see a film being screened in local area.	
1.1.3 Hearing from the Elders – possible joint event with East Hoathly Preservation Society - Dave to follow up	DN
2. Update on Restoring Nature Projects & Community Engagement Activity	
2.1 All Seven Phase II applications have been funded by the High Weald Nature & Community Fund. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hawthbush Farm • Smithlands • Hale Farm • School Biodiversity Garden • Jubilee Field Pond reset project – Parish Council • Community Orchard wetland project – Parish Council • Project management, public engagement, community surveying 	

2.2	Sally planning celebratory event. Date to be confirmed.	SA
2.3	Issue moving forward is that Chiddingly has had a 'good run' with High Weald Nature & Community Fund. Doesn't preclude future applications but may need to think about other sources to ensure projects will be match funded.	
2.4	Re-sampling has taken place to address problem with original eDNA results that indicated no invertebrates present. Sally presented the new results at a meeting at the Village Hall on 10 September 2024. Dave took a note of the meeting which is in Appendix 1 to these notes.	SA, All
2.5	A write up of the results was needed on the Greening Chiddingly website. It was suggested that a sub group might convene to agree how the latest developments of the Restoring Nature project should be presented on the Greening Chiddingly website (unless this is already being done by the subgroup overseeing the Restoring Nature initiative).	
2.6	Community Engagement activity – Gail gave feedback on the recent Artwave festival exhibition at Gun Brewery over three weekends in September, which was well received. QR Code for the soundscape that formed part of the event to go on Greening Chiddingly website once Restoring Nature content agreed.	
2.7	Potential idea for 2025 community engagement activity is a green mapping exercise for the village. Background information on green mapping can be found here: Greenmap . This is a potential project for which funding could be sought in 2025.	GG
2.8	Potential workshop on foraging and weaving could be organised with Aspire Farm School at Hale Farm in the village.	GG
2.9	Other ideas to be developed on an 'outreach plan' and 'corridors of connection' that could feed into the 2025 Green Jamboree.	

3. Report back on Events		
---------------------------------	--	--

3.1	<u>Tour de Chiddingly 2024</u> - attracted 50 riders on 6- and 18-mile routes. Successful event. Fifty percent of participants on 6 mile route were children. Two punctures. £140 raised!	
3.2	<u>Talk to East Hoathly Preservation Society</u> – Greening Chiddingly talk took place on 1 October 2024. Seventy people in attendance (normally 15). Joint presentation from Sally, Gail and Dave. EHPS will pay £100 to the group for the talk.	
3.3	<u>Meeting of Local Greening Groups</u> (at Seven Sisters Country Park) – 3 September 2024 – Dave, Sally and Helen attended, with Sally presenting on Restoring Nature projects.	

4. Planning for future events		
--------------------------------------	--	--

4.1	Celebrating Village Life Event (East Hoathly) – 22 November 2024	GG
4.2	Discussion about Calendar of events for 2025. Agreement that following should take place: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seed Swap 	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attendance at Church Fete • Green Weekend • Tour de Chiddingly • Guided Bird Walk <p>4.3 Dates for events to be provisionally agreed at the January 2025 meeting.</p> <p>4.4 On <u>Seed Swap</u> – Tina and Sue to visit Thorpe Garden centre in Horam and Staverton’s in Halland to see if they had left over seed stock.</p> <p>4.5 <u>Green Weekend</u> – ideas were discussed to broaden scope of Green Jamboree event. Possibility of guided talks about some of the ongoing projects – Biodiversity Garden at the School, Pond restorations project in Rewilding Area in Jubilee Field and Community Orchard. Guided Walk in Vert Woods (Chris Pellet already undertakes these)?</p> <p>4.6 Suggested we might invite other Groups to participate – e.g. Girl Guides, Women’s Institute, Horticultural Society, East Hoathly Preservation Society?</p> <p>4.7 Date of event was discussed as clashed this year with Village Market and Horticultural Society bus trip. Hold it in late August early September instead of June?</p> <p>4.8 <u>Bird Survey</u> – a formal bird survey by Charlie Peverett has been funded through the Lund Trust as part of the Community Engagement project (Sally/Gail). It was suggested that we might ask Charlie to follow up the survey with a guided walk for villagers. Date for bird survey to be identified. As a separate event – it was suggested we might encourage participation in the RSPB big-garden-birdwatch which takes place on 24-26 January 2025 and ask those participating in the village to send in their results?</p>	TL/SM
5. A.O.B.	
<p>5.1. The possibility of somehow merging the regular Greening Chiddingly meeting with the Restoring Nature meetings was raised as a means of improving information flow between these two elements of the group’s activities. Would mean holding meetings on specific evenings if Sally is to be able to attend.</p> <p>5.2. Date and time of next meeting: 19.30, Tuesday 21 January 2025 – Village Shop, Muddles Green</p>	

2025 Meeting Dates: Thursday 27 February 2025 (AGM), other dates tbc

Greening Chiddingly eDNA Explainer

Chiddingly Village Hall 10/9/24

In attendance:

Sally Ashby, David Nash, Gail Giles, Christine Meadows, Sue McHale, Bob xxx, Helen Denning, Andrew Denning, Sheryl Rennison, Fred xxx, Tim xxx, Tina Letanka

Sally Ashby talked about:

- The general range of projects across the Bull River catchment under the Greening Chiddingly banner, and identified the five sites where eDNA samples were collected.
- The process of eDNA sampling and its value for citizen science and providing baseline data for Greening Chiddingly projects.
- The basics of taxonomy, noting we can identify down to family, genera and sometimes species level from eDNA data.
- Noted that over 260 different species identified (256 species at Peke's Farm alone)
- That there are 6 species of fish – brown trout, stone loach, bullhead, minnow, three-spined stickleback, lamprey, plus two members of the carp family
- 13 species of worm, xxx species of xxx, 174 species of fly (unusually high according to NatureMetrics)
- Of the birds, ducks/swans and pigeons most common.
- One of the most interesting things in the dataset is the sheer diversity of fly species present – indicates high biodiversity in the river, really important food for fish and birds.
- We have a number of species that are of considerable conservation significance – notably bullhead, brown trout, (river or brook) lamprey.
- The data doesn't tell us: Abundance, absence (many birds and mammals lacking), vegetation diversity, water quality (though the Oligochaeta [worm] is associated with sewage).

Questions/comments

- Is the range of species unusual for a catchment of this size? Could we access comparable datasets to see how diverse the Bull River catchment is in relation to other catchments?
- Why were no dragonflies detected?
- Is it possible to eradicate signal crayfish? Do we have UK native white claw crayfish in our catchment? Could we use eDNA to detect white claw crayfish? Where would be the best place to sample?
- Can we link the fly species present through to particular bird species that eat them – could we then do landscape scale interventions to improve habitats for those flies (and hence enhance bird species diversity)?
- Were mink identified in the catchment? No, not in the eDNA data.
- Could we set up a project to see if fish species return if signal crayfish are eradicated?
- Suggestion was that we set up a catchment wide strategy for eradicating Himalayan balsam and signal crayfish?