



CAG- Minutes – Wednesday 19th March at 6pm

-foyer of the Eco Hub

Group members: Peter Condon , Emma, Livvy and Molly Leaf Grimshaw, Nicola Jenkins, Kirstin Rayner, Kate Laugharne , Raff Land, Becca Badger, Kirstin Rayner and Hilary Young (delayed).

Bioblitz item and other relevant items brought forward (BB appointment with toads)

1. Welcome, and volunteer chair for this meeting
2. Minutes of the meeting Weds 19th February and issues arising- no items

River monitoring- poll circulated (PC)

PC to liaise with Ruth. Gamlingay residents identified and PC to pursue date for training (possibly just for Gamlingay residents if this can be arranged). Previous training day in Cambridge very enjoyable.(PC)

3. Events ideas 2025

- a) BioBlitz- Green Week – 13th (Friday) and 14th June (Saturday)-Emma/Kate

BB- to try to incorporate a Bioblitz event with Nature Ninjas- Weds 11th June- activities NN family event from 3.30pm to 4.30pm, Brownies to follow/general public early evening activities. Need some experts/knowledgeable identification people for birds, plants flowers, bees etc.

Ideas so far...

- A downloadable sheet for people to use at home to collect data in their own back gardens.
- Some printed sheets to collect from the library.
- A group walk on Saturday morning with local experts to Bioblitz the Meadows.
- A school bioblitz led by Becca or Raff or other volunteers if they are willing/ able.

HY arrived at the meeting.

Discussed ability to identify species both for Bio Blitz and Big butterfly count. FSA guides- Nicola has some and BB has a set which must be returned. Butterfly ID needed, Nicola has Trees Flowers and



bees. ELG James Byfield walk around Gamlingay Woods- identifying-BB- risk assessment, if WT arranged would probably need to charge. BB could provide Aps which help identify plants etc- to forward.

Areas for Bioblitz discussed- Sheet for MBM, gardens, woods, churchyard. HY could do activity before /after service on Butterfly 27th July/3rd August. Walk and sit for 15 minutes and record.

PC provided BB with Climate Call card game for Nature Ninjas (to be returned) .BB left the meeting to save toads and frogs.

EL- advised difficulty getting permission to help volunteer at school. BB offered to use budget for DBS to fast track the issue so RL can help with NN.

Consider organising a formal walk- MBM/butterfly/copse/ and churchyard. 15 minutes' walk and sit- 18th July and 10th August.

ELG- Daytime art sessions-with library- 23rd/30th/6th August daytime butterfly walk, photo and art activities for children (butterflies) KL to co-ordinate the library volunteers/materials. L&M LG and RL happy to help . ELG- consider moth trap evening activity (bioblitz).

b) Big Butterfly Count- 18th July to 10th August

<https://butterfly-conservation.org/events/the-big-butterfly-count-2025>

Agreed should organise some events during this period. (see above)

c) Any other events

- i) Repair Café- latest (ELG) Sat 10th May. 12 signed up- HY- will be late as has a wedding to administer. RL and NJ volunteer. Some activity for children- last time LEGO/colouring- consider options. No one booked bikes in so far- discussed inviting PCSO's- decided to leave this time- invite to the next one.
- ii) Wildlife Gardening Support anything from Parish online session Friday 14th March? (KL RL)

Good list of items- already got most/good checklist. Theme for Village Show- examples of making your garden wildlife friendly- bulbs, bird boxes, hedgehog highways, bug hotels etc- some examples on table and possibly make bug hotel experience. Mapping gardens- Parish online- Duxford- mapped but not monitored/bit disappointing. Discussed signs for participation- could design our own plaque. Discuss at next meeting- have some for the show-scheme for 2026. Wildlife and gardening theme this year. Village Show Saturday 20th September- Kate to book 3 tables. KR to arrange a meeting in July with VS committee on requirements.

d) Parish Council



i) Grant applications- Foam Stream – unsuccessful ;Net zero Villages- unsuccessful- alternative grant programme possibly- KR to obtain feedback with regard specific measurement/detail which is required before considering resubmission to next grant round.

ii) Annual Parish meeting- Gwyn- Hedge laying, River report (just received today- yet to be read) . ELG and GW trimming dogwoods all day today. Help from Sema much appreciated. Three-year rotation experiment being conducted- clearing deadwood and cutting back ends. Biodiversity Audit- presentation at APM- consultation to follow. Like to develop activity plan following from findings.

4. Publicity and promotion-

a) Facebook posts- KL to post request for knowledgeable people/experts for BioBlitz Weds 11th June- birds, bees, plants and flowers, insects 3pm-7pm

b) Any other items

PC- Scything- Haslingfield on Sunday- open forum PC wants to identify dates when scything is required in churchyard- very weather and growing season dependent. NJ 3 from Hatley and PC attending. WT chap willing to do free training on scything- need some volunteers to step forward .ELG- family member/s may be interested if session arranged. Discussion on early scythe cut needed for March to allow light for emerging wildflowers. Training if on PC land would need Risk Assessment.

PC Green Library's Manifesto- KR advised participated in green Library's week last year- KL to look at website.

PC 6 inches of soil film showing and Q&A afterwards in Barrington Church- 27th March- put on Facebook.

ELG- Climate and Nature rep for Gamlingay- 26th March online meeting- find out themes and asks progress from Pippa MP. ELG to report back at next meeting.

- closure of meeting-7.20pm next meeting Weds 30th April at 6pm.

20-03-25- KR



Diary dates

Weds 30th April- 6pm CAG at Eco Hub

Saturday 10th May- Repair café (ELG) and caterpillar art

Weds 11th June- Bioblitz- 2pm-7pm- location tba (CAG members) (Big Green Week)

Weds 23rd July/3^{0th} July/6th August - Butterfly Count walks (ELG) and art activities- Library (KL/volunteers/M&L LG, RL)

Sunday 27th July, 3rd August. (HY) Butterfly count -churchyard

Saturday 20th September- Village Show- CAG Wildlife theme table and activities (CAG members)

Library- table

Parish council table

PS After the meeting finished Raff, Kate, LLG,MLG and ELG decided that there would be a caterpillar themed craft at the Repair Cafe and butterfly themed crafts on the Butterfly count Wednesdays.