



CAG- minutes – Wednesday 21st January 2026 at 6pm

-foyer of the Eco Hub

Group attendance members: Peter Condon, Hilary Young, Kirstin Rayner, Kate Laugharne, Emma, Livvy and Molly Leaf-Grimshaw, Vanessa Tregunna, Miriam Foster, Mark Fitzpatrick, Rebecca Beattie, Eliot Smith, Jan Royal

1. Welcome, and volunteer chair for this meeting- Miriam agreed to chair. Apologies from Nicola Jenkins and Emma Surry
2. Minutes of the meeting Weds 3rd December and issues arising- none. Thanks to ES for fab video and photos on tree planting. Minutes approved for website.
3. Events 2026
 - a) Repair Café-ELG- 21st March – electrical bin is booked and 3 repairers returning- Fulbourn on same day so less repairers available. 1 de-bobbling, 2 electrical and 2 mending. No jewellery repairer booked as yet- 2 bookings- need to publicize now for more bookings. Miriam- some social media posts. Article for March gazette- Seed swap also planned for this event- Miriam to lead on this-to message Allotment Facebook group and KL supply Gardening club contact details. Instagram posts (MLG). ELG to message Patty (café)- other volunteers for the day are welcome.
 - b) Wildlife Gardening Support- update- Turbine bid successful- ELG chasing grant payment - clerk to inquire. Also successful for scythe (GW) purchase. Unsuccessful Linnean Society application. Gazette deadline for article 25th February.
 - c) River fly monitoring- report- all good- more publicity when weather is better (ES)
 - d) Scything workgroup-report- schedule coming out shortly. No activity planned- ELG wildflower section at Chapelfields to be precut. Miriam to share dates of activities when Haslingfield group publish (HY)
 - e) Swift Project-report- MF- walkabout 10th Dec – site assessments in Emplins/top of Church St/Church End. Opportunity for St Marys church hall- HY/PCC to be contacted. Possibility for site on Almshouse Chapel eaves- MF to do some door knocking. 2 more boxes going up 9one on newer property) Mark to write article for end April for June publication. (Gazette)
 - f) Tree planting in The Butts- project/programme- 6 Free trees planted on Sunday 18th March- lovely video and photos- well received. Took 1 hour to plant 6. They will need watering/keeping an eye on- KR to ask groundsman to observe if no rain. Stakes- will record type of tree. Covid Commemoration tree- requested cherry- bottom of access drive in Butts- will be delivered for planting before 6th March- small ceremony /unveiling -PC chair/other dignitary.
 - g) Eco tour- Gamlingay Weds 27th May – SCDC- help to organise/talks- about CAG, Eco Hub, GCT Ltd, parish council, Foodbank etc. HY now not available- will ask if someone else can cover2 minute explanation of project at approx. 1.30pm. Miriam to do publicity/contact Cathy Lui Lin at SCDC.



- h) Butterfly mounds- being created from spare spoil from creation of cemetery paths in new section at St Marys Field- signage put up. KR to contact WT to ask for visit/advice on stabilisation and management/recording of butterfly movements.
- i) South Cambs. Climate and Nature Group- session 31st January 2-4pm Eco Hub (ELG)- Event occurred out of Facebook group of nature recovery in South Cambs.- ELG talking about what Gamlingay is doing. Tickets almost sold out.
- j) Hedge laying/planting- how to plant a 'fedge'- information- circulated via drop box. Sites for willow hedge- not suitable for domestic setting/ back gardens- due to invasive roots blocking drains. Group to consider locations which might be suitable.

k) Parish Council

- i) Biodiversity Audit- 10 actions- details. Consultation to be launched 2nd February- ELG/GW will do a couple of sessions attending display – consultation to 21st March- KR prepare a quick notice for Gazette before deadline. 10 actions- asking residents to feedback their comments /views to be considered. Consultation feedback forms will be available to comment.
- ii) Great Collaboration offer to PC-s for information- noted
- iii) Community Energy- Wind Turbine- what next? discussion -KR advised that subsidies run out on the turbine 2032 and plans need to be put in place if the community want to pursue options of community energy generation may be options for selling direct to customers rather than energy companies. MF has some experience of a Community Interest company in Staffordshire and is a member of the Bedfordshire community energy group. KR/MW to provide additional information on this – main theme for next meeting- to discuss whether there is an appetite to get more involved in a community energy project. Issue of consumption deficit for this area over next 30 years with the levels of development and may be an opportunity to develop community energy further. Good starting point- we already have a wind turbine...
- iv) Cambridge Retrofit Hub volunteer request (VT and HY)- Vanessa to follow up with Retrofit appeal for volunteers.

4. **Grants-** record of proposed grant applications for discussion/approval

GCT Ltd- latest funding for Gamlingay Wildlife Gardens and new scythe (Dec 2025)-funded

A421fund- Gamlingay Swift Project- Mark Fitzpatrick- awarded November 2025-funded

A421 Fund- Bowls Club- solar array and battery storage for energy needs- Jan 2026- application submitted

Gamlingay Wildlife Gardens- ELG- application submitted Sept 2025 to Linnean Society- not successful.



Proposals for grant applications 2026- discussion-HY may apply for scything training course to GCT next funding round- applications close 31st March 2026.

5. Publicity and promotion-

- a) Facebook and social media posts -MF- Butterfly Mounds publicity -social media- to follow.
- b) Articles for the Gazette- review and discuss schedule

April edition Wildlife Garden plaques- launch ELG/Miriam,

March edition Repair Café-ELG/KL- done

May edition- Scything PC/HY,

June edition- Marks Swifts- need to be written by end of April

Late summer/September edition- feedback on Biodiversity Audit consultation results and what is next

Other suggestions?

- c) Any other items- Great Big Green Week- 6-14 June 2026- ideas? [The Great Big Green Week](#)

Bioblitz can be done in great Big Green Week again this year- we can start monitoring butterfly behaviours on the banks (ELG) . HY- Ant and grasshopper film- possibly arrange a showing. HY- MA- soils and farming talk- could be option to do a talk as part of Great Big Green Week- could host in Hatley VH? (Liaise with Nicola)

- d) Closure of meeting- 7pm. Next meeting Weds 18th March 2026 6pm

HY requested signage re dog poo on paths in St Marys Churchyard. KR to provide.

KR

22-1-26