

## **Ryburgh Wildlife Group**

Annual General Meeting

**2nd February 2026**

**Review of 2025**

### **Achievements in 2025**

Monthly newsletter sent to members with information on local and national topics.

January 2025 - Wassail on the village field

January and September 2025 - Railway line zombie pond cleared, excavated and restored.

March 2025 - Holding meeting in liaison with NWT of local wildlife groups in Norfolk, in the village hall.

April 2025 - Stall at the village show

April 2025 - Sennowe walk

May 2025 - Green Hairstreak Walk at the Fuel Allotment.

July 2025 - Walk around the village to visit ponds, community woodland etc.

July 2025 - RWG Members Bar B Q

July 2025 - Members walk in Foxley Wood.

August 2025 - Warham Camp visit for Chalkhill Blue butterfly.

October 2025 - Stall at the Biodiversity Awards at The Forum.

October 2025 - Extensive management work carried out at the scrape to improve the wildlife value.

October 2025 - Sennowe walk by Tom to see extraordinary Sennowe trees.

Developed a relationship with and joined the Upper Wensum Farmers group.

Created a calendar to exhibit our local wildlife.

Started a scheme to identify trees in the parish that are special to members.

### **News from our wildlife sites**

#### **Old Railway Line**

The wildflower grassland along the centre is now being cut once in autumn, not in spring / summer to allow flowering and nectar as part of the parish Pollinator Pathway network.

The trees, shrubs and brambles are allowed to flourish in their existing positions but will be kept from encroaching onto the grassland.

A narrow central footpath is maintained to allow access along this important village amenity.

#### **Community Woodland**

The first trees and shrubs have grown considerably and now create a colourful mixed woodland, full of blossom, berries, and fruit that provides a very good habitat for wildlife as well as a valuable and much-loved village amenity. The spring bulbs we added last year are beginning to spread and the squirrels and jays have been busy planting acorns too. The Wassail event, led by Holt Ridge Morris, was a suitably memorable way to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the year that the community came together to create this new home for wildlife in the centre of the village.

#### **Great Ryburgh Common**

The group is concerned about access to and the state of this special site. Something to address in 2026.

#### **Scrape**

With the completion of digger work removing the accumulated silt in the depression that forms the scrape in October, and the rains that arrived in

November which filled to scrape once again, it is in first class condition to attract wildlife in the Spring of 2026.

### **Stibbard Junction Field**

Over the last year the field has continued to provide some refuge for native perennial flowers and rarer native annuals e.g. centaury, hop trefoil, catmint, and both smooth and hairy Tare. It is hoped that sensitive trimming of the hedges this autumn will result in the reappearance of nesting whitethroat.

### **Old Railway Line Pond**

Mechanical clearance of stumps and sediment build up took place in September. We look forward to regeneration of water plants from seeds from the original pond base. The committee is looking for participants to engage in the monitoring of the ponds reemergence of flora and fauna. Anyone interested should please contact a committee member .

For safety reasons the protective “dead hedge” created around the pond using the cut branches will remain in place for the time being. This will help to prevent disturbance to the pond’s wildlife from dogs and will reduce contamination of the water from their flea and tick treatments.

### **Wildlife Inventory**

The committee has been keen to set out a base line of wildlife in Ryburgh against which we can measure change over time. Nick Parsons has compiled a bird list, Roger Ward a moth report, and David Cooling a butterfly list. Barley and Ian Wilson have surveyed the old railway line for birds and plants. These are on the website and the committee hopes that members will send in sightings in 2026 to help get a fuller picture of local wildlife.

It would be great to extend these species list to mammals and plants etc. Any volunteers to help coordinate these would be appreciated. Don’t be shy.

### **Members WhatsApp group**

A members WhatsApp group was started in 2025 and currently has 29 members taking part. This is envisaged as a communication tool for members to post information on the wildlife they have seen and for commentary on those posts. Photographs are welcome. The committee

hopes all members will join up to enjoy giving and receiving news on Ryburgh nature. If you cannot trace your invitation to join please raise with a committee member and we will send you another.

## **Plans for 2026**

- Maintain and strengthen our relationships with Sennowe and the Wensum Farmers group.
- Maintain and strengthen our link and relationships with NWT and other community stakeholders.
- Continue to work with Crisp Maltings to improve biodiversity throughout its site.
- Encourage more active member participation in our activities.
- Monitor the wildlife in the Scrape and our restored pond.
- Monitor the status of Swallows, Swifts and House Martins in the village.
- Complete and publish the list of members' special trees.
- Conduct survey of trees to identify wildlife haven.
- Continue with a range of walks and community events.

## RYBURGH WILDLIFE GROUP

## Draft Accounts - August 2024 to July 2025

Bird Seed			
18.09.24. £47.51		Opening balance.	2058.31
04.12.24. £87.64			
10.06.25. £47.51	182.66	21.01.25 AGM Net	23.21
Hall Hire		20.02.25 Wassail Net	7.72
21.10.24. £48.00 (Nature Week)		27.07.25 BBQ Net.	62.58
05.02.25. £36.00 (Wassail)			
04.03.25. £48.00 (AGM)			
07.04.25. £60.00 (RWG Conference)	192.00	Subscriptions.	725.00
22.01.25 Wassail refresh.	30.00		
22.01.25. Hide padlocks	71.40		
27.01.25. Pond notices	71.00		
12.02.25. Bird feeder.	32.00		
20.02.25. AGM printing	30.00		
17.07.25. Insurance prem.	152.32		
<b>Total.</b>	<b>761.38</b>	<b>Total.</b>	<b>2876.82</b>
		<b>Deduct expenses.</b>	<b>761.38</b>
		<b>In hand.</b>	<b>2115.44</b>

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Ryburgh Wildlife Group,  
held at the Memorial Hall, Great Ryburgh at 7pm on**

**February 19<sup>th</sup> 2025.**

**Present:** Mike Rundle (in the chair), 11 members (see attached) **Apologies:** from 8 members (see attached)

- 1) **Welcome and Annual Report** Mike welcomed the members and gave his report outlining the activities of the RWG during 2024. He referred them to the website ryburgh-wildlife-group.co.uk which has a full recent history of the group, with meeting minutes and newsletters, species lists of birds and butterflies and details of the pond restoration, site management and pollinator pathway initiatives.

The bird hide at the scrape suffered from vandalism and resulted in a key system which did not get take up and did not fulfil the needs of members. A new system of padlocks and a new number has been introduced.

Interest was shown in the initiative to regularly test the River Wensum for phosphates, sulphates and to monitor its general condition. Neil Dandy reported that he and Ian Wilson had been trained and will test on 3 sites including the bridge, Mill Road and outside the village.

Access to Great Ryburgh Common is limited by a fallen tree, this will be dealt with as soon as possible. The inconvenience of mud on the railway line was discussed and will be further considered by the committee.

Members were interested to hear that the Maltings wish to work with us to further their sustainability agenda, and we believe that we can help them mitigate environmental problems caused by their activities.

Members were interested in RWG organising another litter pick, in the absence of interest from the Parish Council for this.

- 2) **Financial Report** This was circulated. Approval was proposed by Jane Rundle, Dandy, seconded by Fenella Purdy and agreed unanimously.
- 3) **Minutes of the AGM 2024** Presented by Mike, approval proposed by Roma Dandy, seconded by Jane Rundle and agreed unanimously.
- 4) **Election of Officers** Mike confirmed that all committee members were eligible for re election and were standing again. No other nominations had been received and there remain 2 other places on the committee. Mike Rundle, Chair and Treasurer, David Cooling Membership Secretary, Gill Waldron, General Secretary, Neil Dandy, Nick Parsons, Barley Wilson and Ian Wilson were proposed for re-election by Jane Rundle, seconded by Roma Dandy and it was agreed unanimously.
- 5) **Any Other Business** There being no further business, Mike thanked the members and closed the meeting at 7.40pm.