

SWWAG Chairman's Report 2018/19

We have had a busy year continuing to establish Sid's Piece more firmly as part of the village: Three new signs were installed by Mark and Aubrey to mark the entrances to the community woodland making it more visible from the road. Mary Jane led a walk around Sid's Piece and her own land for National Meadows Week on 2nd July. There was a good turnout with enthusiasm for the wildlife and our new signs. Once again we put up an exhibit at the Village Show and won Best Display for a Local Organisation. Thank you Mary Jane and Helen.

The initial inspection of the owl box was followed by another later in the season. Owls had struggled due to the late spring and subsequent shortage of voles. Hornets had taken up residence in the box, but nevertheless three owlets hatched, though sadly these did not survive. We hope for better luck this year and have put up an imitation nest or "waspinator" close to the box to deter further infestations.

At the beginning of October Ian S. organised a Countryfile walk in aid of Children in Need. In addition to raising money it was a good opportunity to try out the proposed route for the SWWAG leaflet. We thought that doing it for this popular cause would encourage people to take part who might otherwise not, and this proved to be the case.

Work parties took place through the autumn and winter months to maintain the woodland. Simon coppiced a second area which is starting to show dividends. The basket willow area also had a tidy up last month, restoring the wire fence and cutting back overhanging trees. Helen took over the maintenance of the community herb bed at The Chase and subsequently a sign was erected kindly donated by John Dorling.

Our fund raising event at Wyken was the most successful yet. We had a few last minute cancellations, but due to the growing popularity of the event we had a reserve of stallholders. Our sincere thanks for use of the venue, and especially to Sir Kenneth who lead the guided tour of the gardens. Suffolk Musicians played for hours despite the dismal weather. It was so lovely to see Amanda. Thanks must also go again to Marlow's Home & Garden for their support of printing the posters/leaflets and the loan of their gazebo. Well done all – Mary Jane for organising all the volunteers, Ian S. for all the publicity. Also during April we were involved in the COMMUNITY MATTERS scheme with Waitrose from which we were awarded £334. Thank you Helen for instigating this.

At the end of May Mark once more gave a report on SWWAG to the Parish Council. We also had an advisory visit from Peter Holborn of the Suffolk Wildlife Trust. We have yet to receive his report, but it is hoped that as well as a strategy for maintaining Sid's Piece he will be able to recommend ways SWWAG can integrate with and get support from the community, develop its educational objectives and support local activities. From his initial remarks it seems that these are universal problems, even the SWT have trouble recruiting families. In the coming year we look forward to what the SWT has to say, and applying it where necessary.

Income & Expenditure Accounts (1st June 2018 to 31st May 2019)

Income	2118.44
Expenditu	1207.95