

## **Waldringfield Parish Council Biodiversity Report – July 2026**

### **Wildlife Group (WWG)**

It has been very encouraging to see the number of swifts returning to the village continuing to increase this summer. Even more encouraging is that birds have begun nesting in several boxes that were previously unused, suggesting that the colony is continuing to establish and expand.

We would like to encourage more residents to support this success story by installing Swift nest boxes on suitable properties. Swift boxes are relatively straightforward to construct and install, and every additional nesting opportunity can make a real difference to this remarkable species. They have been available through the WWG but The Wildlife Trusts have an excellent 'how to guide' to building a swift box on their website, this can be viewed by [clicking here](#)

### **Upcoming Wildlife Group Events**

- **Saturday 18 July – Moth Trap Opening**
  - Plum Tree Cottage
  - 10.30 am
- **Tuesday 21 July – Annual Butterfly Group Survey**
  - Church Field
  - Led by Peter Maddison
  - 11.30 am – 12.30 pm

### **Greener Waldringfield/West Deben Cluster Group**

Following the delivery of the Biodiversity Action Plan leaflet to all five parishes, Greener Waldringfield will be holding a half-day workshop in the Village Hall on **17 October**.

The workshop will provide an opportunity for residents to discuss how we go about identifying species, the websites to use and hear from local experts. Further details will be announced shortly.

GW has also published a one-page guide to becoming an oak tree steward.

### **Saltmarsh Monitoring**

As people will know this low water (LW) activity continues as part of the biodiversity recording taking place across the parish. During our most recent monitoring earlier this month, the green algae growth and blanketweed I reported on last month was covering one of our observation quadrats on the marsh.

Several long-time residents have told me this is the worst they have seen the river. The algae/weed is continuing to spread and, as it dies back, it is beginning to rot, producing a strong smell along with a white frothy bloom in places.

I am trying to establish whether there is a health risk and if the parish council should be informed on water quality on a more regular basis and of course there is already a Deben Estuary Plan, which recognises the importance of protecting water quality and the ecological health of the river.

The Environment Agency (EA) regularly monitors the water quality and bacterial levels at Waldringfield, testing the water approximately 20 times per season (May 15 to September 30) for faecal indicator organisms such as *E. coli* and Intestinal Enterococci, this information is available on [Swimfo](#)

### **People's Emergency Briefing – Film screening and discussion**

The People's Emergency Briefing, planned for July, had to be postponed, ironically because of the exceptionally high temperatures.

A new date has now been set for **11 September**. The event will feature a panel of speakers, which will be announced shortly. This is an all-ticket event, tickets can be booked [here](#)

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### **Gardeners Group**

The Gardener's Group next event is the Produce Show in the village hall on Saturday August 8<sup>th</sup> .

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**Councillor Sue Quick**  
**Parish Council Biodiversity Co-ordinator**