

Waldringfield Parish Council Biodiversity Report - June 2026

Wildlife Group

The next event is on Saturday 13th June: the bimonthly meeting and a talk on The Secret World of Lichens by Dr Anthony Speca, which is followed by a guided lichen walk after a short lunch break.

The Coordinator has issued an appeal for new volunteers to help support the group's activities and ensure its continued success. Additional volunteers are needed to assist with administration, projects and events. Anyone interested in becoming involved, regardless of experience, is encouraged to get in touch.

For further information, please contact Linda at:

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Saltmarsh Monitoring

This low water (LW) activity continues as part of the biodiversity recording that is happening in the parish. Two new volunteers have recently joined the group to learn how to record the plant species of the marsh. This project started a year ago and we are looking forward to reviewing the life cycle of the plants that we have recorded so far and identifying points of action for further work in this important habitat. As part of the project, we have recently observed green algae within several of the monitoring quadrats.

The algae has been identified by Dr Tim Gardiner a biodiversity officer at the Environment Agency, as belonging to the genus *Ulva*, and while it is a natural component of coastal ecosystems, excessive growth can lead to the formation of so-called "green tides", where large accumulations of algae can have harmful environmental impacts, including reducing oxygen levels and affecting other plant and animal communities.

The presence and extent of the algae will continue to be monitored as part of the ongoing salt marsh survey work, helping to build a better understanding of environmental changes within the Deben Estuary.

Greener Waldringfield/West Deben Cluster Group

West Deben Biodiversity Action Plan.

Over the past month, significant progress has been made in launching and promoting the West Deben Biodiversity Action Plan.

The Biodiversity Action Plan leaflet has now been printed and is in the process of being distributed to households across the parishes of Brightwell, Hemley, Martlesham, Newbourne and Waldringfield. The leaflet represents the culmination of more than two years of work and provides a framework for community involvement in biodiversity, Citizen Science and nature recovery initiatives across the West Deben area.

In addition to household distribution, arrangements are being made for the leaflet to be distributed to a number of households in Martlesham through local schools, with copies being sent home in children's book bags. This provides an excellent opportunity to engage families and encourage greater awareness of biodiversity and environmental issues among younger generations.

A dedicated online survey has also been developed to help identify people who would like to become involved in the project. The survey seeks to gather information on local interests, skills, experience and volunteering opportunities, enabling the project to build a network of individuals, organisations and community groups interested in supporting biodiversity activities.

The focus over the coming months will be on building participation, recruiting volunteers, establishing partnerships and developing practical projects that enable local communities to become actively involved in understanding, protecting and enhancing biodiversity across the five parishes.

The People's Emergency Briefing – Film Screening and Discussion

The film will be shown at the Village Hall on Friday 26th June at 7:30pm. Based on the landmark Westminster Hall event in November 2025, the film features nine leading scientists and experts explaining how environmental breakdown is affecting British life, alongside contributions from well-known environmental voices including Chris Packham and Deborah Meaden.

Following the film, there will be a discussion with an invited panel of experts, offering an opportunity to explore the issues raised and ask questions. Names will be released nearer the time.

Admission is free, but tickets must be booked in advance. Tickets are bookable only through a QR code that takes you to EventBrite [Reserve your place here](#)

Gardeners Group

There has been lively debate including garden pests, produce and soil topics, also sharing seedlings and surplus plantings, in the Waldringfield Gardeners WhatsApp group. Their next event is the Produce Show in August although there are many ad hoc events being shared; they are inviting ideas for collaboration.

Sue Quick

Climate and Biodiversity Coordinator