

# **PROTECTING YOUR NATURE SPACE**



## **Creating a Wildlife Friendly Community**

**Following a WI resolutions proposal, Knowbury Village have initiated a project which EVERYONE can use in their own areas.**

**SFWI will propose adopting this as a Federation Resolution at the next Annual Meeting**

**Using initial ideas from Knowbury, we hope that all Shropshire WIs will join with their local communities to take part. Let's get started NOW!**

**The aim is to inspire everybody to do something to encourage and protect nature in areas close to them. This may be working with local organisations in your local community or in your own garden, in a window box or plant pots on window ledges.**

Many of us are fortunate to live in wonderful villages, with garden spaces, and surrounded by wonderful countryside, but we can all take action to conserve our local nature and wildlife.

Children will really enjoy the challenge of doing something to encourage wildlife into their gardens, local areas and maybe in schools.

Many of you will already have ideas of what can be done to fulfil the aim of making your space wildlife friendly.

**PLEASE SHARE YOUR IDEAS WITH US.**

**We can then share with others.**

**For more information - read on.**



**Here are a few things that we can all do in our own spaces.....**

Put up bird boxes

Install bird feeders/tables

Install hedgehog houses or make your own

Make solitary bee houses and bumble bee nests. The

Shropshire Wildlife Trust is a really useful website with so many helpful suggestions.

Plant flowers, bulbs etc. that attract butterflies, bees and moths,



(maybe you could do a plant swap in your local area).

Use plants that flower in different seasons and plants that like the shade. Leave dandelions a bit longer for early food.

Make your own compost.

Use Water butts to conserve water or even buckets.

Try to think 'native' when planting

Keep a small section of your garden as a wildflower garden.

Try to avoid disturbing winter bugs too soon by waiting to tidy up your garden until there is a regular temperature of 10C.

**IF YOU HAVE OTHER SUGGESTIONS PLEASE SHARE THEM WITH US.**

**TRY TO AVOID.....**

Using chemical sprays and fertilisers, using Peat compost

Try not to be too tidy in parts of your garden in early Spring and in Autumn

Be careful where you step, strim and mow.

**Many will already be doing these things. Try something new.**



**Children** will enjoy getting involved. Encourage them by giving them a piece of the garden for themselves to plant and tend. Help them to build a nesting box. Get them to read about the creatures they are likely to find in their gardens and to draw them or write about them.

If you are knowledgeable about bee keeping perhaps you could tie up with someone who would like to install a hive.

Adopt a village flower for everyone to grow in their own spaces and make it a village or local area emblem.

Create a small community pond, getting families involved in the digging out, lining, planting and ensuring access for frogs etc.

Take part in litter picks, which will help to keep your local area attractive and wildlife safe.

How about creating a map of your local area to include ponds, bird and insect boxes, areas where native wild flowers are planted, etc.

In the future there will be lots more ideas to share.

**Some of SFWI plans include:**

Inviting expert speakers to give advice or information, maybe on zoom initially but at a social evening as soon as it safe to do so.

Organise nature walks, rambles and visits to gardens. SFWI have regularly organised these events across the county and, as soon as it is safe to do so again, will continue to provide an interesting programme of nature watch activities.

This initiative does not just have to be for the WI. Consider linking in with local organisations such as your Village Hall, Church, Parish Council and others.

Plant wild flowers along the verges

Hold workshops to make insect houses, bird boxes etc.

Have photographic displays on a social evening.





**We want to encourage you** to join a local or national wildlife scheme.

Many have local branches. Here are a few examples:

**Shropshire Wildlife Trust.** <https://www.shropshirewildlifetrust.org.uk>

**Shropshire Hills AONB,** [www.shropshirehillsaonb.co.uk](http://www.shropshirehillsaonb.co.uk)

**British Hedgehog Preservation Society,** [www.britishhedgehogs.org.uk](http://www.britishhedgehogs.org.uk)

**RSPB.** They have a local Shropshire branch meetings regularly. They organise wildlife walks and have talks about safeguarding species, working with local farmers and landowners. They have a blog on the RSPB website. Contact Carol Wood on 07807 068304.

**Naturehood Earthwatch.** An online community project designed to tackle the decline of wildlife in our community. They have weekly projects to get involved in.

Let's all follow Knowbury's example to become...

### **SHROPSHIRE, A WILDLIFE FRIENDLY COUNTY**

**Knowbury Village has a new website.** It will provide lots of information about this village project for us all to use in our own areas. Look at the information which will be updated regularly, and maybe add your own ideas and suggestions, with photographs to share too. Look at [www.knowburyvillage.co.uk](http://www.knowburyvillage.co.uk) and go to: **2021 Village Project** page.

**If you have any questions or want to share your ideas please contact:**

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