

Shamley Green Environment Group update for PC newsletter:

The Shamley Green Environment Group (SGEG) was formed in January 2020. Despite the challenges of Covid the group has continued to grow and projects have taken shape. The groups objectives for 2021 were published in January: progress is summarised below.

- 1. Work with the Parish Council to facilitate the transfer of responsibility for commons management from Waverley Borough Council to the Parish Council.** The details have been agreed and day to day operations are now run by the Parish Council. Funds to cover the costs have been transferred from Waverley. Volunteers are assisting with mowing and maintenance of the commons.
- 2. Major works completed on the two village ponds.** We are grateful to local resident, Patrick Mannix for leading on this project and personally funding the extensive works undertaken by contractors to remove invasive weed from the Duck Pond and reed mace and duck weed from the pond near the Bricklayers Pub.
- 3. Increasing biodiversity through changes to the mowing regime, trial planting of wildflowers and tree planting.** The group have worked with the Parish Council and local residents to agree a new mowing regime for the village. Areas are currently being identified for tree, wildflower and bulb planting this autumn using donated funds.
- 4. Ditches cleared and drainage working.** Work was undertaken during lockdown to prevent flooding on the B2128 near the village shop. Thanks to Waverley and Surrey Councils for their assistance on this matter, as well as the volunteers who assisted the Parish Council. The work is ongoing around the village.
- 5. Amphibians protected during the migration and breeding season.** During 2020 - 21 there was a record number of volunteers, expertly led by Regena Coult, for this project that takes place from January to March each year.
- 6. Lengthsman scheme for litter.** Over the years there have been various groups involved in litter clean up schemes. During lockdown Patrick Mannix started a scheme to get residents to adopt routes and litter pick regularly. This project is ongoing.
- 7. Register of tree on the commons updated and regular inspections started.** Register completed for main common and Lords Hill should be completed by end of year. A small group of volunteers is being trained in September on how to monitor trees and look for disease. This is on top of the regular professional surveys undertaken by the Parish Council.
- 8. Demand for allotments in Shamley Green tested and potential land identified.** After adverts were placed in the parish magazine a number of people came forward to indicate their interest in having an allotment. The Parish Council is currently looking for suitable land.
- 9. Gathering evidence** SGEG has organised surveys of wildflowers, birds and invertebrates, which will be available through the group's website to be launched soon.
- 10. Exploring partnerships with other organisations.** Volunteers are working with both our local schools to identify joint projects. SGEG is also in contact with other similar groups including Surrey Wildlife Trust and the Guildford Environment Forum and have a funding partnership with the Wonersh Foundation.

For further information on SGEG please contact Cllr Chris Howard on 01483 894437

