

Professor James Hitchmough of Sheffield University met with the Shamley Green Environment Group in April and also visited the village school to talk to the children about wildflowers and environmental issues. This was a great success. James told the children how he was helping the Shamley Green community to look at ways of improving the wildflowers in our natural environment. The children then asked him lots of interesting questions. Some were about wildflowers such as the structure of bulbs or why he liked to use Latin names, but he also talked about his visits to China and meeting a grizzly bear while plant collecting. The children then showed James the school grounds which included



their herb garden, the sports field and borders (hopefully with wildflowers coming up), and the woodland habitat where they do forest schools and study nature.

His visit was particularly welcome because the children are going to be identifying and recording wild flowers and will be involved in trying to increase the variety and amount of plants that we have in Shamley Green as part of their partnership with SGEG. And on that we will draw on James' advice and prepare plans for planting in the autumn but will consult in the village and seek Parish Council approval before that.

Particular thanks to Claire Merriman for organising James' visit and to Sue Cory-Wright for the school visit.