

Hi Everyone,

Just a little catch up from SGEg on what we got up to in 2022 and what is going on at the moment.

At the bottom are the **Shamley Green Environment Group highlights for 2022** - please do get to the bottom to see what we all did together last year

2023 - At the moment there is lots going on in the village with, amongst other things, amphibians on the move and swift boxes going up.



The toad patrol is still underway although now more amphibians are leaving the ponds than arriving to breed. The toad patrol whatsapp group has been invaluable in keeping everyone informed and in touch.

It will be interesting to read Regena's end of the season report. Our feeling is that the numbers are up on last year with a lot more in the Norley Lane/Lords Hill area than

before <https://www.shamleygreenenvironment.co.uk/news-spring2022> Amphibians are bio indicators meaning that if they're present, the environment is healthy. [Amphibians | Shamley Green Environment Group](#)

Swifts - so far we have at least 41 swift boxes up in the village and I am sure this will only increase as there has been a lot of interest. It has been lovely seeing the boxes going up and also to witness the enthusiasm of Sarah and Roger and the dedication and organisational skills of Kate Elmes Rudd. Click [here](#) for an article on the website about them. WSG and Longacre have also participated and have 8 boxes between them. Some of the children have even raised funds for the boxes themselves.

I think It is really exciting - Wonersh have 15 (plus their belfry) and we have 41 - how cool is that! There is also now hope of having some swift boxes in our church.



It is brilliant that so many people in the village are helping with these projects - if any of you, or people you know in the village, have ideas about environmental initiatives SGEg would love to hear about them, maybe someone is thinking about starting a repair cafe or a library of things to

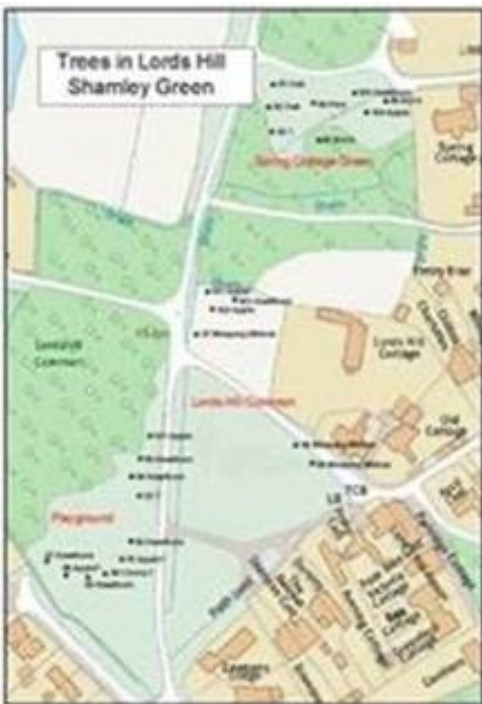
share, please let us know. Last year we had idea to start a gallery of photos of items which had been given a new lease of life or had been transformed - but this has not really taken off!

Also last year we talked about possibility of getting together for an evening in the pub, this has also not happened yet but we have come up with some wonderful maps which are probably just as exciting (not everyone will necessarily agree with that!) and equally worthwhile.

All the planting of wildflowers which we have done together since 2021 is now shown on this new map (with illustrations), on our [Wildflower Planting](#) page, as well as the complete list of species to be found. This might be of particular interest to all those who helped. Click on the map for a larger version



We also have two maps showing the locations of all the trees new and old on the commons which the Parish now manages, which you will find on the [Trees](#) page of our website. If you are interested in a particular tree you can find out more by delving deeper into the [inventory](#) and reports. Click on the individual maps below for full size versions:



These mowing maps for [Lords Hill](#) and the [village greens](#) are also on our website, under '[habitats and management](#)' and show the mowing regime for 2023:



Birds - We have a new SGEG Bird Life List on our website so if you think you have seen a bird which is not on the list please let us know. We have 71 species listed so far in our [list of birds seen since 2021](#)

Here are the rainfall figures we have recorded on our rain gauge, with the Met office average for 1991-2020 (at Wisley) in brackets. In summary we have been wetter than average in December, February and March and far drier in February.

Dec 83.06 (66.07)
Jan 96.1 (65.29)
February 11.00 (48.23)
March so far 97.00, (40.56)

Now.. What you have been waiting for..

Shamley Green Environment Group highlights for 2022 (and a bit beyond)

We AND YOU are a group of volunteers with an interest in improving the village environment. We work with the Councils and help to manage some funds in the Wonersh Foundation set aside for improving the environment in Shamley Green.

We have advised the Parish Council on **mowing**, mostly to reduce it to benefit plants and wildlife, while respecting village needs such as footpaths, cricket and the fete that require areas to be mown. Blue Hearts have recently been placed on some areas that should not be mown.

Our **wildflower diary**, published on the website every quarter, charts the changing plant life of the village. We are monitoring our plant population and hope to see an increase in species over the years. There is anecdotal evidence that numbers of insects are increasing, but we plan to test this more scientifically in 2024 by asking an entomologist to update the 2020 survey.

Volunteers planted **bulbs** on Hullmead and Nursery Hill in 2022 and we will continue to monitor the results of our 2021 wildflower planting.

We have sought expert advice and facilitated the planting of new **trees** suggested by residents. Volunteers have maintained the new trees planted in 2021 and all but one have done well. The Parish Council and Waverley are responsible for trees on common land but we are helping them to monitor tree health.

The **toad patrols** by volunteers helped over 1900 amphibians on the main Woodhill Lane spring migration route. We also monitored amphibians in new areas of the village in 2022. The numbers are consistent with most previous years and show the population remains stable. Details are on the website.

The drought made for a difficult year for the village **ponds**. The Duck Pond dried out and the ducklings, sadly, did not survive. More positively we do now understand better the water level changes and the sources of water for that pond. And relevant ditches have been cleared. After a long search the Parish Council has employed contractors to work on both ponds and ditches, which should mean we are better placed for regular maintenance through the summer of 2023 and for action on invasive vegetation next autumn/winter.

2022 was a quiet year in terms of new species for our **bird** list. But we have helped the Swift Project with its programme to install nesting boxes around the village.

We have coordinated groups of **volunteers** to clear a footpath and to reduce highly invasive Himalayan balsam growing near Norley Lane.

We continued to liaise with both **village schools** and their environment teams, and Shamley Green Village Stores.

We provided **publicity** for our village initiatives and links to programmes run by the Guildford Environmental Forum. We publicised other environmental initiatives such as the national bird, butterfly and plastic counts. We ran a stall at the fete, presented at the Village Assembly and helped to welcome the Lord Lieutenant of Surrey to the village. We publicised our initiatives on our website. (<https://www.shamleygreenenvironment.co.uk>).

Group Membership. Lyn Barber stepped back and Sally Townsend-Smith took her place. We welcome new members. The only requirements are an enthusiasm for the environment, a bit of time and working well in teams of volunteers.

Thanks for reading and thanks for all your help and thanks in particular to our committee member Jane L for an amazing effort on the maps.

You are getting this because you have shown an interest or volunteered for something environmental, if you do not want to receive future editions please let us know. Also if you have friends who might like to see it then ask them to contact us.

best wishes

Henrietta Griffiths

on behalf of SGEG