

SGEG - Shamley Green's push for biodiversity

Shamley Green looks rather different nowadays – the village greens are less ‘manicured’ than in the past now that many of them are being mown less frequently. More wildflowers are in evidence, and in our regular forays around the greens SGEG have been keeping an eye on how they are doing.

We have particularly noticed an increase in some plants such as Greater Birds Foot Trefoil, Knapweed, Red Clover and Alkanet, which are all great for pollinators. Our 2024 invertebrate survey recorded 14 different species with a conservation designation in Shamley Green and Lordshill compared to only 9 in 2021 - all surveys are just a ‘snapshot’ of what is around at the time and should be read with caution, but we do think that a more diverse plant population in Shamley Green may be promoting greater diversity in our insects too, and that’s really encouraging!

There has been a catastrophic collapse in insect populations in the last 50 years, not only in the UK but worldwide - just think, when was the last time you had to scrape a layer of squashed insects off your windscreen after a long journey? And insects are at the heart of every ecosystem so this can’t be ignored. Even food production will be jeopardised if the collapse is allowed to continue unchecked. It’s good to feel that Shamley Green is doing its bit to help, both on our commons and in many people’s gardens too.

See <https://www.shamleygreenenvironment.co.uk/surveys2021-2024> for details of both Invertebrate surveys. You can also find lots of information about our wildflowers on our website – the Wildflower Diaries have been running every season since 2021 so you can see what to look out for each month, and we now have a list of about 180 different plant species found on and around the village greens. See <https://www.shamleygreenenvironment.co.uk/wildflowers> . We also have a page for gardeners so you can see how you too can help make Shamley Green a more nature-friendly place <https://www.shamleygreenenvironment.co.uk/gardens>



Buttercups on Duck Pond Green