



SGEG | Shamley Green Environment Group

The Shamley Green Environment Group (SGEG) advises the Parish Council on management of our common land, organises wildlife surveys and initiates community projects to benefit wildlife and the environment.

<https://www.shamleygreenenvironment.co.uk>

How we're helping wildlife

We formed in 2020 to help Wonersh Parish Council manage our common land in an environmentally sustainable way. We've reduced mowing to once a year on some greens, our two ponds now have plenty of surrounding vegetation, and the animals using our ditches have more vegetation for shelter. We've encouraged the installation of 58 swift nesting boxes around the village, and each year we help around 1600 amphibians cross our roads safely on their spring migration. We've planted spring bulbs and pollinator-friendly wildflowers to supplement our depleted seed bank. For the Queen's Green Canopy project, we created a little "orchard" of hawthorn and ornamental apple trees on one of the greens and planted individual trees elsewhere. We work with our village schools who show great leadership on environmental causes.

Greatest achievement

Getting local support for providing a wildlife haven on our commons. They are no longer sterile but brimming with life and biodiversity. We are collecting evidence to guide decision making and recording it on our website.

Biggest challenge so far

Communicating with the wider community to get them enthused and involved. Navigating the necessary local procedures to get things done. Balancing the wishes of people and the needs of wildlife around our ponds.

Next steps

To find a project which involves the whole community, maybe persuading everyone to do their bit towards the B lines project, or reducing waste or use of plastic.

Top tip

Seize opportunities to listen to what is important to others and what they think we can do for the village environment. Try to have as many different people in as many volunteer groups as possible. GET THE KIDS INVOLVED!