

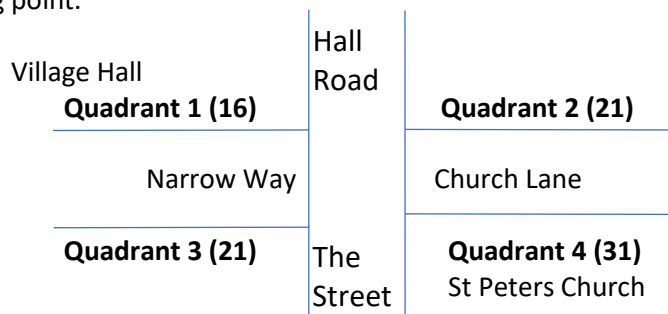


## WILDER GARDENS SURVEY OUTCOMES SUMMARY 9th March 2023

Creating a wildlife friendly garden, or area within a garden, to provide habitats for wildlife and the plants that support them is important to maintain biodiversity in our local landscape. Wilder Wenhasston decided a good beginning for its sub-project group on wilder gardens, was to establish a base-line survey of all gardens in the parish. A blank survey questionnaire was distributed to all residents in the Wenhasston with Mells parish via February 2023's edition of the Wenhasston Warbler. **At end of March 2023, we had a total of 90 returns the results are below.**

		Yes	No
1	a) Do you leave an uncultivated area in your garden/tended specifically for wildlife? b) Do you use plants specifically for wildlife/as pollinators?	59 72	18 11
2	<b>BUGS:</b> a) Are you aware of the insects in your garden? b) Do you have a bug hotel? <b>BIRDS:</b> a) Do you put food out for birds in your garden? b) Do you have bird feeders? c) Do you have any nest boxes? <b>BEASTS</b> Are you aware of seeing/seen signs of any of the following in your garden? a) Frogs b) Grass snakes c) Hedgehogs d) Is there a route through boundaries for hedgehogs to move to a neighbouring garden/area?	83 40 80 78 65 45 32 53 76	8 49 10 23 24 42 55 35 12
3	Is your garden a) A whole garden for wildlife? b) Or a smaller wildlife area within your garden?	31 51	44 24
4	Are any of these in your garden? (Including any season): a) Trees b) Shrubs c) Hedgerows d) Wildflowers e) Long grass area/s	85 89 75 74 58	5 0 12 10 28
5	a) Do you have a wildlife pond (i.e. not one for ornamental fish)? b) A different sort of water area e.g. a sink	36 37	50 43
6	Do you have any water butts?	78	12
7	Do you compost garden/kitchen waste?	61	26
8	Do you garden for wildlife in ways not mentioned above? Find answer given <b>on the reverse</b>	12	10

We wanted to see if there was any significance in answers provided relating to the area of the village that residents live in. For this purpose, we divided the village into four quadrants, taking the cross roads at the Village Hall/Church as a dividing point.



## Respondents invited to add further information about their gardens:

1. 90 percent of garden is aimed to help wildlife; pond has areas for hedgehogs to get out; Hedgehog shelter used in past years.
2. Log pile and 2 or 3 piles of leaves & twigs
3. Help friends create wildlife areas, read and keep up with latest news, I know a number of people in Wenhaston who'd like to have a wildlife friendly garden however, they don't know what to do or where to begin. Arranging a speaker or two will be helpful.
4. No dig organic veg patch; leave dried stalks overwinter; mow paths only through grass.
5. Log piles left for wildlife.
6. Plants chosen to attract insects, bees, butterflies etc. Aim to garden organically.
7. Leave lawn for wildflowers in summer. Leave seeding shrubs for winter. Don't leave bare soil areas. Flowers and shrubs which are good for bees and butterflies. Don't use pesticides or inorganic fertilisers or weed killer. Have a hedgehog house.
8. No pesticides, fungicides, herbicides.
9. Slow worm seen. Most garden area has nectar bearing plants or dry grass for birds to forage. Bark mulch harbours insects. Nettle margins to hedge. Extensive ivy growth for pollen and berries.
10. Not seen frogs in recent years. Route through front gate only.
11. Some bits are wilder than others.
12. The garden is planted with numerous flowering plants for birds and insects. The garden area is 80sq much of which is laid to lawn.
13. Bird bath. Log piles near pond.
14. Bird baths.
15. No chemicals or cut grass mechanically hedges cut in new year trimmings rot down in heaps.
16. Swift nests in eaves, birds and insects visit.
17. Access under main gate, hibernaculum, log pile, rock pile.
18. Foot wide strip down side of building for wildlife and a bird bath.
19. Planting natural hedge replace lilac; planted birch in a strip to protect indigenous saplings. Trim hedges at end of nesting. Apply white to windows once fledglings hatch to prevent window strikes. Keep road potholes to slow traffic for wildlife.
20. Wildflower meadow seasonal, harvest seeds from wildflower area to re-seed areas or grow on.
21. Wetland and meadow wild flowers. Multiple small wildlife areas within garden.
22. Hedgehog home; Bat boxes and in attic; bees in old chimney; slow worms in hedge and compost bin; toad in diff compost bin; stone area for newts to overwinter.
23. Several bird baths and animal bath for drinking.
24. No pesticides and all weeding done by hand.
25. Only use organic fertilisers.
26. Bug hotel is log pile. Wildlife and bee friendly planting.
27. Frogs, grass snakes and Hedgehogs not seen recently.
28. Toads not frogs.
29. Large area of undergrowth; ours is a small garden but we make sure there is food & undergrowth for birds & insects
30. at all times of the year; and food for the hedgehog. Flowers through the seasons for the bees etc.
31. With our thatch, there is plenty of places for insects.
32. Don't use insecticides, pesticides or herbicides. Seen toads not frogs - grass snake ate frogs.
33. Pile of logs; bird feeders unused due to local noise; slow worms seen.
34. I grow bee and insect loving flowers
35. Organic garden; managed overall for wildlife; no toxic chemicals used; swifts nest in eaves,

## Summary of key comments:

### **Organic approach to gardening:**

- many actively avoid using chemicals e.g pesticides/non-organic fertilizer/weed - killers in the garden

### **Water sources:**

- included birdbaths, a pond fitted with exit route in case a hedgehog falls in,
- others missed frogs visiting the garden

### **Safe hiding places:**

- Log piles (dead wood) featured- unstructured alternative to bug hotels.
- Also bark mulch as insect friendly habitat.

### **Leaving Wildflower and wild grassy areas:**

- mentioned with pollinators for insects and seeding shrubs
- ivy left as natural bird and insect food sources into autumn/winter.

### **Homes provided:**

- for swifts and hedgehogs.

### **Using the leftovers:**

- Leaving undergrowth hedge trimmings (and leaves) to rot down in piles
- composting garden waste to reuse