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Annual Parish Meeting of Waldringfield 12 April 2012

Report from the Waldringfield Wildlife Group

The Group continues to thrive with a membership (now 42) meeting bi-monthly. Talks in 2011 by home and visiting experts covered banded snails and evolution, hedgehogs, food from the wild, bees and flowers and creating a living landscape in Bradfield Woods. We also enjoyed guided walks to Foxburrow Farm, Melton and Porter's Wood, Martlesham. A quarterly newsletter, *What's About*, written by Peter Maddison, continues to be very popular and reports sightings of bird activity and other wildlife during the year.

The displays of snowdrops, crocuses, daffodils and other wild flowers, planted by members in the grass verges of the village did well in the spring and summer. The support we have received from the Parish Council is much appreciated.

The nine barn owl nest boxes installed around the village by the Suffolk Wildlife Trust Community Barn Owl Project continued to be monitored monthly during the nesting season. Only one box produced a successful brood in 2011: three barn owlets hatched but only two successfully fledged. These two were ringed by SWT in July. The severe weather and shortage of food during the previous winter probably contributed to the smaller number of broods. The other boxes were occupied by stock dove, jackdaw and a squirrel. We hope for a better result in 2012.

We have recently embarked on a nest-box scheme for Spotted Flycatchers, another species in decline. Forty nest boxes have been made for us by a young man at Hollesley Bay prison and these are being installed in gardens round the village ready for the start of the breeding season in May.

A letter on behalf of the Wildlife Group was sent objecting to Suffolk Coastal's revised LDF Appropriate Assessment and Sustainability Appraisal documents (October 2011). The revisions proposed will not, in our view, be sufficient to mitigate anticipated negative effects on the Deben Estuary and Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

Individual letterers were also sent in response to the proposal for the sailing club pontoon on Waldringfield beach.

Sally Redfern
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Waldringfield Wildlife Group aims to protect, conserve and encourage wildlife, habitats and biodiversity in the parish and its environs; to encourage wildlife friendly management of land, gardens and public spaces; and through practical action in monitoring and recording (and from time to time initiating and carrying through more major projects to promote and enhance wildlife) to encourage greater interest in and knowledge and love of the natural world.