

## **Moulton Wildlife Group Report 2023-2024**

Over the past year we have continued to develop areas of wildflowers on The Green and at the end of Church Road. These have been very successful, giving lots of colour, attracting pollinators and providing habitat for invertebrates. Some flowers, such as honesty and ox eye daisies are now establishing themselves. This year we have sown more shade-loving wildflowers in the semi shaded area on The Green and doubled the size of the Church End wildflower patch. Sadly, the few trial patches we sowed last year alongside the river and by the Packhorse Bridge did not succeed due to invasive species taking over and, (despite our attempts at watering,) the drought.

The hedgerow on the playing field is now into its second spring and still growing well. We are keeping the area under the hedge free of weeds and thanks to Douglas James the hemlock, which was invading the area, has been cleared. The four deciduous trees which we planted along with the hedging are in leaf and we have added a cherry tree and a plum tree. The Scots pine did not survive the first winter, we have replaced it with a slightly larger specimen.

We established more bird boxes and a bat box by the river and in Maltings Close; thanks to Tim James for putting them in place. This makes a total of 9 bird boxes. We know that there has been activity at some of them and in "Moulton Matters" we are asking villagers to let us know if they see any being used. The bird feeder at the edge of the playing field was set in concrete - thanks to John Gunson, and has been a success with blue tits, long tailed tits and jackdaws using it.

We are planning a plant stall at the village Fun Day in July to create more funds for both us and the village. Although we get many positive comments from villagers, volunteer numbers have fallen. We carried out a survey of the existing volunteers to find out when people are available to help and we organise work parties on different days of the week and times to accommodate as many people as possible. We continue requests for volunteers alongside our progress reports in "Moulton Matters", will consider advertising on the village Facebook page and promoting the group on our stall at the Fun Day. With more volunteers we will be able to both maintain the existing wildlife areas and undertake new projects.