



Report for the Annual General Meeting of the St Mary Bourne Parish Council

The Sustainable Bourne Valley group comprises nine representatives from the valley who are all interested in promoting the protection of the local environment and sustainability wherever possible. It was set up in January 2019 under the auspices of the SMB Parish Council.

Amongst its many projects the following have been particularly successful in the last year.

- The Toad Patrol – confusing weather patterns this year meant an extended toad mating season, from the end of January to the end of March. But the keen bunch of 27 patrollers were out in all weathers and rescued 542 toads, with 40 sadly squashed. Many thanks to them all, they clocked up a total of 117 hours on duty.
- Hirst Meadow – All the work put in by many volunteers is beginning to show. Some undergrowth is being contained, but enough left to provide food and shelter to many birds and animals. The trees planted by the top class at SMB Primary School are thriving and many more wild flowers are appearing. Hedgehog shelters have been provided. All this is detailed in the excellent sign at the top of the field, kindly funded by the Parish Council.
- The Lake – A member of SBV is helping to draw up a Management Plan for the Lake.
- Recycling – There are now extensive details of all types of Recycling on the SBV website.
- Repair Café – is always busy. Held on the first Saturday of every month many different things are brought in to be mended by 3 very kind men and a seamstress. From hoovers, kettles, to a toy Maclaren.

Any other suggestions of ‘sustainable projects’ would be welcomed by the group.

7 May 2024