

**PARISH ENVIRONMENT GROUP**  
**2022/2023 Update by Wickham Market Parish Environment Group**  
(Tree Warden and Green Gym events)

We have continued to organise occasional small work parties during the last year.

***We are always in need of more support from local people for all environmental projects, helping to enhance the village and do our small part in nurturing wildlife.***

This report highlights the key ongoing project areas and work undertaken in 2022/2023.

**1 SPORTS FIELD, THONG HALL LANE**

The west boundary tree/hedge line alongside field continues to be tended with more trees added. The planting here is looking really good and is now providing valuable landscape greenery and wildlife corridor linkage to/from the village. We have not yet managed to secure support for new hedge/trees to give some shelter and screening alongside the new allotments (and to align with the Neighbourhood Plan).

**2 WICKHAM MARKET CEMETERY**

We continue work in the cemetery to keep it looking beautiful. Jobs over the last year have included tree management and planting, removing plastic tree tubes. Rabbit numbers are still problematical and are not currently controlled. They cause damage to trees, headstones/kerbs, flowers, grass sward and bulb areas.

The snowdrops were wonderful early in the year and supplemented by a further 500 bulbs funded by WMPC.

**3 CHAPEL LANE**

We have managed our new planting project of 22 oak trees with field maple, hazel and hawthorn along the track across to Sandy Lane. Funded by SCC and supported by James Hayward, Landowner. These small tree groups will provide a high tree line visible from various parts of the village; BUT patience will be needed!

A new spinney was managed and supplemented in the southeast field corner, with a further 50 native trees, oak, lime, hornbeam, hawthorn, field maple, cherry, dogwood, and hazel, mostly home grown and supplied by Tree Warden and helpers.

**5 HIGH STREET SOUTH OF THE VILLAGE INTO PETTISTREE**

The avenue of mixed trees still need attention, particularly tube removal. These trees are generally maturing well and are ever more important as development pressure on the area increases. Hopkins Homes have removed trees and the frontage of their site will require attention through more tree planting and management.

**6. JAVA LODGE ROAD SPINNEY, PETTISTREE**

A new spinney or small woodland was commenced in early 2023, located at Java Lodge Road north of the pylon line in Pettistree. Working with PPC and funded in part by Cllr Poulter ESC. Approximately 150 native trees have been planted with more planting scheduled for next year.

**7. SUFFOLK TREE WARDEN SCHEME**

We are supported by the Suffolk Tree Warden Network in terms of specialist support, training and materials. More help is needed to grow on young native trees and collect seed for planting in the Autumn.

**8. BIRD BOX PROJECT**

Sonya Exton is continuing to monitor and check some 45 bird boxes.

**9. COMMUNITY CLEAN-UP**

Sonya Exton has been organising occasional village **Community Clean-ups** but does much work alone as do many other volunteers.

An event is planned for Saturday 29th April starting at 10.00am Village Hall organised by Cllr Dempsey Gray leading the Climate Change working group. See separate report.

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**Can you help us with any of these activities or projects, either out in the field or behind the scenes!? PLEASE come forward!**

**Offers of funding for future plantings welcome too, many thanks to those who have supported the work this year.**

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WM Tree Warden

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