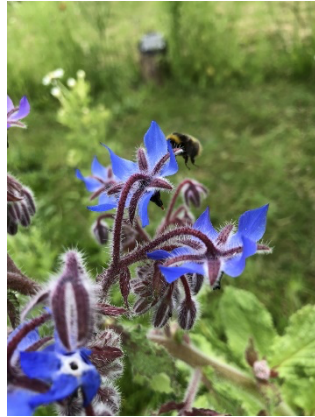




## Wildlife Areas Update, May 2023

by Sophie Flux, Wildlife Working Group Member



**Bumblebee on Borage**



**Wildflower Spiral**

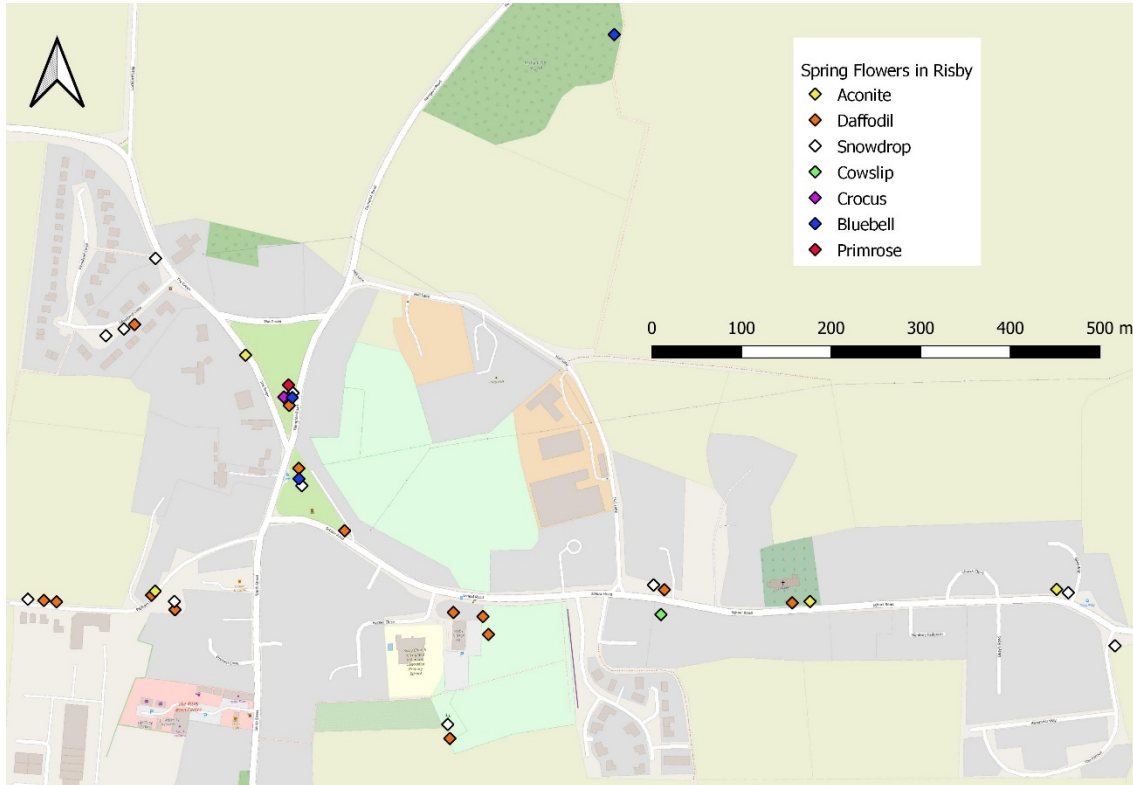
### Wild Areas

The wild areas around the village have provided even more habitat for more plants and animals since 2022. Following the success of the Interactive artwork wildflower spiral (pictured above), the wildlife group have created three new borders for cultivated wildflowers around each of the three wild areas on the Greens. The seeds (costing approximately £260) were donated by Kings Crops.

The wildlife group continues to manage these areas as wildlife meadows: the group will be cutting the longer areas down at the end of September as we did last year.

### King's Coronation

This year the Wildlife Group together with the Village Hall has built planters around the hall to protect the walls from people driving into them. One of the planters will be designated as a King's Coronation Planter. Many of the plants sown in the 13 planters are red, white and blue to reflect the patriotic colours. Other donations for these planters have come from local businesses and organisations (the monies have gone through the Risby Village Hall Charity Trust). The wildlife group have also received £250 worth of seeds from the charity, WildEast and these red, white and blue wildflower mix has been offered to residents around the village to sow in their own gardens.



## Map of Spring Bulbs

### Community connections

This year the wildlife group have worked on a project funded by Natural England and led by [WildEast](#) and the Suffolk and Norfolk Nature Recovery Partnership. This project is a mapping project which has looked into mapping what wildlife habitats are present in gardens and other green spaces within the villages of Risby and Hundon. We have run a [wildlife habitat survey](#) and created maps (see above). The project has enabled the group to use up to date mapping technology that will go on to help our village and other villages to understand the wildlife habitats in our parishes and how we can connect these areas to benefit both wildlife and people. This project has also given the group wildlife equipment to learn more about and also help hedgehogs, pollinators, bats, reptiles, amphibians, mammals, plants etc.

Just like last year, more residents are getting involved with the management of the areas, the workshops and the group as well, helping to improve cohesion and belonging within our Risby community. In September we worked with Risby Primary School PTA and ran a wildlife trail on the Scarecrow and Sale Trail day (see below).

If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact me:

E: [sophieflux@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:sophieflux@yahoo.co.uk) T: 07758 739332

# RISBY VILLAGE SALE TRAIL & SCARECROW FESTIVAL



What to look out for in the village as you visit the Sale Trail Tables on this Wildlife Trail?

Remember to fill in the Wildlife Sheet with the letters on the 8 Boards. Once you have filled in the sheet, return to the Village Hall to receive your wildlife prize!

Please be careful – nearly all the areas noted below, have footpaths, but not all, so please be very careful. Do not put yourselves in danger by walking in the way of traffic. Please do not drive around the village while doing this trail, as roads such as Quays Road on the east side of the village, will get blocked and it will be a nuisance to residents. Take your time and enjoy the day!

**South Street:** The hedgerow along the street is a home for birds and animals. Look out for Blackbirds flitting among the trees or Muntjac deer trotting in and out from the hidden orchard.

**Antique Centre:** This area has some really large trees at the back of the complex, that allows spaces for bats to roost under the bark and lots of insects to live. The Hedgehog Garden Centre is a great place to buy Bee Friendly plants and seeds. The Antique Shops are the original recycling and reusing centres – pop in to these shops to see if there is something you need to support the wildlife in your garden.

**Welham Lane:** The pond in here is fed by a spring. Mallard ducks and Moorhen live here all year round.

Sit on the bench and look out for the birds here. The Wildlife group also have wild areas on this lane – look out for the decorated wooden artwork on the grass area near the pond.

**Woodland Close:** Look out for the big dead tree on this close. Dead wood is really important for our insects. Beetles, bugs and bees all benefit from having dead wood to live in. Behind Woodland Close is an Orchard. In the winter this orchard feeds lots of Thrush type birds including flocks of Fieldfares and Redwings.

**The Lower Green:** Run around the Wildlife Spiral here. There are still a few flowers in bloom and if you are lucky you might see hoverflies and late flying Bumblebees amongst the spiral. The spiral also has wooden artwork decorated by the Risby School children. Do you have a favourite piece?

**The Upper Green:** Take a rest and sit under the Large Sycamore Tree on the wooden logs just behind the bus shelter. This is a lovely peaceful place to sit, relax, chat or read a book. We have named this area the Risby Reading Tree, but you might not have time to sit and read here today!

**Village Hall:** The recreation ground has committed 20% of its whole area to be managed in a Wildlife Friendly Way. Play on the playground equipment bordered by the veteran Oak trees, wild grasses, nettles and flower patches left for butterflies, bugs and beetles to breed on as well as over 60 sapling trees to increase

the biodiversity here. Refreshments will be served in the Hall from 10am to 2pm.

**School Road:** This road is the main thoroughfare from West to East and there is lots of wildlife to see here. Look out for Grey Squirrels on the wires above your heads, the fish in the pond, the ducks on the banks or the flowers in the Church. St Giles Church has been awarded an Eco Church Silver Award for it's ability to support wildlife. The church yard has a lovely contemplation bench set amongst roses and herbs for people to relax, think and contemplate.

**Giles Way:** This quiet cul de sac on the east of the village has lots of spring bulbs in the wild area near it's entrance. They are sitting under the grass ready to burst with life next year. Look out for the wooden artwork and imagine the daffodil, snowdrops and anemones sleeping soundly in the ground here.

**Alexander Way:** What a fabulous hedge! This time of year, these hedges should be bursting with lots of berries for our wildlife to live on through the winter: such as bright red haws, rosehips and deep purple blackberries. Our birds, insects and mammals need these hedges to survive. Hedgehogs sleep at the bottom of hedges, rolled up tightly into little prickly balls, maybe there's one sleeping there right now as you walk around the village!

