

Risby Rangers Report , Summer 2021

The group

Fifteen volunteers keep Risby tidy, communicating through the Risby Facebook page. This is a friendly, informal group and an offshoot of the Wildlife Friendly Village initiative. Members are issued with high-viz vests, litter-pickers, gloves and sacks and encouraged to read the health and safety/insurance advice.

We enjoy the support of the following organisations:

- Parish Council (risk assessment/insurance)
- Village Hall Trust (equipment and use of bin)
- West Suffolk Council (waste bags)
- Risby Barns (equipment donation)
- Coopers Cabin (use of bins)
- Risby Truck Stop (use of bins)

Successes

The work of the group has been noticed and praised by villagers. We have dealt with historic waste (cans/fast-food packaging/bottles) in verges and ditches and fly tipping along the Cavenham Road. Road signs, bus-shelters, the de-fib cabin and noticeboards have been cleaned. In April three Rangers appeared on Jon Wright's BBC Radio Suffolk phone-in. As the group grows, the village becomes tidier and the task less onerous. Highways have agreed to cut back vegetation obscuring the A14 bridge footpaths.

Litter

There are different issues facing the village, needing regular attention. Rangers contribute as and when they can. Problem areas include:

- **Newmarket Road/ top end of South Street/ the ramp over the A14**
Litter thrown from passing HGVs, including food waste, bottles of urine and worse.
- **Cavenham Road**
Fly tipping and litter thrown from passing vehicles (cans/bottles/plastic containers)
- **Flempton Road**
Litter thrown from passing cars into the drainage ditches. Fly-tipping in the Bluebell Wood layby.
- **Footpaths and pavements**
A few anti-social dogwalkers are still not using bins provided (Top Green; School Road x 2; Recreation Field – near the school; Woodland Close.) Bags are available from a container fixed to the telegraph pole by St Giles Church. I have asked the Parish Council to consider replacing the School Road bin with a wheelie-bin to cope with increased use.
- **General village litter**
The usual sweet-wrappers, fast-food litter and tobacco-related waste. Irritating, but easily dealt with.

Wildlife Friendly Village

The wilding of prominent areas, such as a section of The Green to encourage wildlife is a positive step, generally appreciated. My concern is that the wilding of verges at village boundaries may be misinterpreted as neglect, rather than management, and that this might encourage littering. Signage could be an answer.

Future plans

Recruitment: Rangers will have a stand at the Green Village event on Sunday 26th September. This may well include an aptitude test (which of course everyone will pass.)



Stephen Spencer

14th August 2021