



**Yorkshire
Wildlife Trust**



#TeamWilder Communities in Action

CASE STUDY: Molescroft Wildlife Network

Tell us a bit about your group

The Molescroft Wildlife Network was started in Spring 2022 by three residents, Sharon, Karyn and Helen. We care about our local community and the green spaces within it and want to make Molescroft Parish alive with wildlife: creatures of the day and night, flora, fungi and invertebrates.

A core aim is to inspire at least 1 in 4 Molescroft residents to take positive action for nature by 2030.

What actions do you or your group want to take and why?

We are influencing our Local Authority, Parish Council, churches and local community organisations to give biodiversity a high priority within their site management plans.

We are conducting ongoing surveys to establish a baseline of the flora and fauna within the parish and researching the ways in which we can enhance habitat areas to increase biodiversity.

We aim to create new local networks and partnerships, such as a 'Friends of St Mary's Graveyard', and a 'Wildlife Education Forum' for our schools and youth clubs to engage young people in local conservation projects.



We have won a funding bid of £2K from Molescroft Parish Council for management plans for nature recovery in the Millennium Wildlife Haven and St Mary's Graveyard."

What sorts of things have you done for nature so far?

We have built relationships with our Local Authority and Parish Council, resulting in a change of management of some amenity areas, such as grass mowing regimes.

We have won a funding bid of £2K from Molescroft Parish Council for management plans for nature recovery in the Millennium Wildlife Haven and St Mary's Graveyard.

We have worked with Yorkshire Wildlife Trust and a group of residents to scarify, rake and sow two areas of local green space with yellow rattle seed. This has already suppressed grass growth and made room for species to emerge, including waxcap fungi. #TeamWilder has given us practical help with a management plan for our 'Pocket Meadow'. We have sown seed gifted from the wonderful Barmby Moor meadow and churchyard, where orchids and other native plants are thriving.

We have created information boards to explain our progress and engage local people. We have created a website at <https://molescrofwn.org>, joined the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust stall at the Beverley Minster Eco Fair, and delivered presentations on our work to inspire and influence others, including at the Yorkshire Wildlife Trust AGM.



We have also initiated a link between Humber Forest and our local schools resulting in work to improve their grounds for wildlife.

We have successfully bid for an East Riding Community Action Grant to fund a Hedgehog Highways Project, which will include hosting an event in 2024.

What resources or support have you used?

We have been supported by, and liaised with, the following groups as well as #TeamWildier:

- East Riding of Yorkshire Council's Grounds Services and Environmental Services teams
- Molescroft Parish Council www.molescroft-pc.gov.uk
- Caring for God's Acre, the conservation charity for the UK burial grounds www.caringforgodsacre.org.uk
- The Hull and East Yorkshire SMILE Foundation www.heysmilefoundation.org
- Beverley Men in Sheds www.beverlymeninsheds.org
- The Hull Natural History Society www.hullnats.org.uk
- Humber Forest www.humberforest.org
- The volunteers from St Catherine's Churchyard, Barmby Moor
- Wolds Hedgehog Rescue www.directory.helpwildlife.co.uk
- National Federation of Cemetery Friends www.cemeteryfriends.com
- Beverley in Bloom www.facebook.com/BeverleyinBloom



Did you empower or involve others?

We have involved members of the local community in our practical activities and in our planning and consultation exercises. We are becoming increasingly ambitious in our aims to support local authorities and residents to rethink how they use public and private space for nature recovery. A network of regional parish groups has been established as a result of our work, to bring together groups who are already doing similar work in their home patches, or who have aspirations to do so in the future.

How did it make you feel?

We have become activists for nature, instead of passive observers of the environmental crisis we're living through. Our work has been fun, exciting, frustrating, enlivening and a massive learning experience. Above all it's rewarding as we are beginning to make a difference by influencing the people who can make change happen and bringing people together from the community. We have dreams, and trying to turn things around gives us hope not despair.

What changes have there been as a result of your actions?

We have our new 'Post Box Pocket Meadow', created by us and managed by our Local Authority, with agreement from our Parish Council. We hope this will be a template for more 'mini meadows' in the area and further afield.



We are compiling baseline species information, compiled through the surveying work that has been done with the support of the Hull Natural History Society.

We are liaising with others in the locality with an interest in wildlife including a farmer, a community farm, Green Social Prescribing and Hedgehog Rescue charities. MWN has already been a conduit for the transfer of resources, information and advice between our local patch and regional organisations, including parish groups from North Yorkshire.

What have been your favourite nature moments or encounters with wildlife whilst doing this?

Through our work we have become more aware of, and moved by, the beauty and vulnerability of the wildlife within Molescroft Parish. We have become more determined to give these species room to spread, and to give future generations the opportunities to learn about them and value them, as we do.

What do you plan to do next?

- To stay positive and believe that we have the power to change things despite setbacks.
- To continue to work with East Riding of Yorkshire Council, Molescroft Parish Council and partners to lobby for and support further changes in land management practices for improved biodiversity, and to make these sustainable in the long term.



- To have an official group launch event for the spring, in the hope of spreading our message and attracting new members.
- To create Species Champions (or teams), to monitor and act for specific species within our local ecosystems, create links with other organisations who can offer expertise or practical support and build local events linked to relevant national campaigns.
- To develop methods to measure community involvement and the impact on nature, such as mapping areas of land that are, or could be, managed for nature and recording species change. This will support further applications for funding.
- We are very excited about the future and looking forward to a day when Molescroft is teeming with both nature and wildlife activists!

Contact us or find out:

<https://molescroftwn.org>

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