



BARWOODS

Botesdale and Rickinghall Community Woodlands Project

Report for Botesdale Parish Council Annual Meeting, 2023-24

Members of the Steering Group of Barwoods are pleased to report to Botesdale Parish Council on our activities, with especial reference to Miller's Orchard in Mill Lane. We are grateful for the interest and financial support that the Parish Council gives.

After another very mild, wet winter, we edged slowly into spring and blossom time at Miller's Orchard. Later in the year there was a heatwave, so our weather is even more unpredictable. We do a regular check for Health and Safety and the footpath is kept open by use, which is the intention. The autumn was a good time for fruit in the wood and some people came to pick it.

We had an annual meeting in September and were pleased to welcome Ann Topham, who has been setting a great example planting trees in Redgrave Park.

There has been a very wet autumn and winter running into spring with flooding in the villages but our sites have not been affected. Miller's Orchard is on high ground relative to the flooding streams.

Our leaflet is designed to go into the Welcome Pack for new residents. A short article goes into each village magazine issue and our work parties are on the first Sunday of the month on one of our three sites. New helpers are welcome. This is a long-term project and we are already seeing results, so it is satisfying. Please think about joining us. We do just what we can and no more, and it is lovely to see other people enjoying Barwoods sites.

It is an interesting fact that people are more willing to help plant trees than maintain them and so the work falls on fewer people now. Those who do this work have been doing it for a number of years; if anyone would like to join us and feel part of its creation, they would be welcome. We planted wood for the village and we also care for the other two sites; we hope they will continue to offer quiet spaces for the enjoyment of residents.

Please contact Di Maywhort on 01379 898785

Rosemary Jones, Chairman, 4th March 2024
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