



SGC



1
AUGUST 2017

WILDLIFE PROJECT



One year on and a number of projects have been put in place and we are starting to see some results. The first project was the building of the Bug Hotel near the half-way hut to give a home to solitary bees, beetles, spiders, ladybirds, woodlice, toads, frogs and birds. Many have moved in and I suspect it will get fuller as we move into Autumn and Winter. It also acts as a visual noticeboard to members and visitors to show that the club is helping nature out.



Last Autumn, with the help of Richard Owens (a previous winner of the 'Environmental Greenkeeper of the Year Award' at Boston West) and our Club President Paul we put up 15 small bird boxes and 3 large bird boxes (kestrel, little owl and tawny owl). These initial boxes have proved very popular with 87 chicks fledging, a mixture of blue tits, great tits and pied wagtails.

Recently I have put up a further 11 small bird boxes aimed at wrens, robins and sparrows.



Whilst the 3 large bird boxes remain unoccupied, I am pleased to report we have attracted a breeding pair of long eared owls which are quite rare around here. I was lucky enough one evening in May to see them fledge and caught them on camera. I managed to follow them for 2 or 3 weeks, but they now appear to have dispersed.



Hedgehogs



As you may be aware the UK hedgehog population has dropped dramatically in recent years and this has been true of SGC's population.

As a result of finding an injured hedgehog on the course last year, I have made links with a local hedgehog rescue centre. I am pleased to say we have released so far 3 rescued hedgehogs from the centre onto the course. Our own hogs seem to be increasing as well.

I have set up 2 hedgehog houses on the course and helped them with food and water and hopefully we will see the numbers increase over time.

Whilst walking around the course at twilight in the last 2/3 weeks, I have seen hogs on the short course and around my hedgehog house at the 2nd tee box.

If anyone does come across a hog on the course during the daytime, it normally means trouble, so please report it to me or better still catch it and bring it off the course.

Wildlife List

Many of you will have seen on the clubhouse wall a list asking for members to tell us about any sightings on the course. This gives me valuable information as to where to concentrate resources on, so please keep posting on the list or by emailing me (a quick phone picture would be great too if you have the time). My email is nicholas.lawson1@ntlworld.com . Grass snakes seem to be the most popular creature reported although I haven't seen one yet myself.

Drystone Wall - 10th/11th Fairway

Under the guidance of expert Derek Barnett, myself and 1 or 2 member volunteers started work in April and Natural England will only allow us to work through to 30th September. At that time, creatures will start looking for a place to live in, during the winter.

The work will commence again next April. If you do have any spare time on a Monday, either now or in the new year, please come and help between the hours of 9am – 3pm.



Bats



Sadly again, the bat populations have suffered severe decline in recent years. Within the last few days I have identified a number of common pipistral bats flying at night around the trees on the short course and around the 1st green / 17th tee boxes. 6 bat boxes have been put up to help with their survival.

Photo Gallery

