

2025/26 Report from Stowupland Biodiversity and Wildflower Group

The Green has a great potential for improving biodiversity within Stowupland. And it is important to remember that schemes to improve biodiversity take years to provide wide benefits; they are not always pretty; we need to be patient.

All of The Green is a huge benefit to insects and mammals, especially unmown areas and the edges of The Green...and the pond. On our biodiversity area we saw a wider range of wildflowers last year but still the grass predominates. We are starting to see dormant species appear and hope there might be orchids this year.

The plan is for the area to be mown once a year, in September, and the grass removed. Unfortunately, the Parish Council's mowing contractor cut the whole plot in early April.

The water level in the pond was higher in 2025 than in previous years but work to de-silt the pond was carried out in late summer. Tree surgery carried out in 2024 has allowed more light into the pond and the banks. We have carried out some work at the back of the pond and removed some of the non-native species, but we are reluctant to do more, which would risk destroying established habitats.

Planting of native daffodils and oxlips (the flower of Suffolk) in various places has been successful. They will take time to fully establish but seeing so many more daffodils this spring showed that they are becoming well-established.

Our group led on planting the mounds around The Green. We expect a good show of flowers later in the year, but we will need to supplement with perennials and, hopefully, native daffodils. Perhaps individuals or groups of residents might volunteer to plant lengths of the mound, using bulbs provided by the Parish Council.

In addition to working on the biodiversity plot on The Green, we have continued to work with Freeman School, the High School and the Mulberry Centre, and Barley Close.

We are looking forward to further discussions with the Parish Council to draw up a new mowing regime for future years and this will, hopefully, include No Mow May in some areas.

The sunflower competition was a massive success again in 2025. Every household in Stowupland should have received some sunflower seeds in their April Telstar this year. We look forward to measuring the tallest sunflowers and the largest diameter flowers.

The Half-a-Mow area will be renamed Judy's Half-a-Mow to commemorate the work done by Judy Clarke to establish the area. A small celebration is being planned for 21 June.

We welcome new members to join the Group, either as members of the planning group or as practical volunteers. Come and talk to us when you see our banner, which we set up when working around the village.

Keith Welham
May 2026