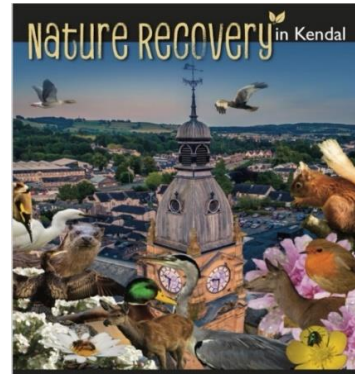


Natural Kendal

July 2024 Newsletter



This is the first newsletter of Natural Kendal. Our Steering Group are keen that we develop good communication between all involved with nature recovery in Kendal. We will be experimenting with formats and welcome feedback and support in how communication develops. Please feed in information and news, and use the questionnaire attached to let us know your interests and anything you could do to help.

Brief Conference Report - Nature Recovery in Kendal

The launch Conference on the 18th May 2024 at Kendal Museum surpassed the Steering Group's expectations with the passion, creativity and skills that over 100 participants brought to the day. We are gathering the fantastic ideas to turn into action to energise nature recovery in our town and catchment. What happens next will depend on what you would like to be involved in doing. Areas we plan to focus on are:

1. Facilitate and build partnerships around habitat improvement for biodiversity;
2. Support existing practical work for nature on the ground;
3. Develop new cohesive ideas and delivery of programmes/projects for nature recovery;
4. Involvement with planning/development and land/habitat management;
5. Effective lobbying of other organisations on behalf of wildlife;
6. Build community engagement in nature recovery;
7. Education programmes about nature with schools and other educational organisations;
8. Start the Natural Kendal Society;
9. Input into the local festival programme and Natural Kendal Festival;
10. Developing a 'sustainable nature market' for Kendal;
11. Good Communication about nature recovery, – Website, Facebook and Instagram etc
12. Develop simple and inclusive methods to measure the current state of nature in Kendal and the benefits we derive from it; and measure and evaluate our progress towards our objectives for nature recovery.

The newsletter tells some of the actions Natural Kendal and partners are taking. Please let us know what you can contribute to local nature recovery and via the attached questionnaire.



The Natural Kendal Society – Educational Programme

The Natural Kendal Society will be the main way by which we meet one another and encourage people to engage with nature recovery. We will have a dedicated organising group to draw up the programme of events to promote the work that is going on or needs to happen in and around Kendal. Please let us know if you have interests, time and skills to contribute to this programme



Festivals and Culture

Input into the local festival programme and Natural Kendal Festival; Discussions started with Torchlight, Kendal Mountain Festival and the Westmorland County Show.

Please let us know if you could be part of the Natural Kendal Festival Running & Organising Group (FROG)



Must see film 'Wilding'

Based on Isabella Tree's best-selling book by the same title, WILDING tells the incredible story of a young couple that bets on nature for the future of their failing, four-hundred-year-old estate. Showings to end of July.

[Wilding - Brewery Arts - Kendal](#)

Candidates in hot water at Clean River Kent hustings

At a lively election hustings, organised by the Clean River Kent Campaign, six parliamentary candidates for the Westmorland and Lonsdale constituency were asked by members of the public what action they would take to clean up our lakes and rivers, if their party were in government.

Chaired by BBC Farming Today presenter, Caz Graham, the panel of candidates comprised Phil Clayton (Green Party), Tim Farron (Liberal Democrats), Matty Jackman (Conservative Party), Pippa Smith (Labour Party), Izzy Solabarrieta (Heritage Party) and John Studholme (Independent).



In front of an audience of 100 people, the candidates fielded questions on topics from sewage and pollution incidents - affecting Windermere, the Kent and local rivers, Staveley and Burneside - to their positions on tougher regulation and renationalisation of the water industry.

Ginny Branney from Clean River Kent Campaign commented, *'Passions ran high at the hustings because people care deeply about the state of our rivers and lakes. And there is anger about water companies having paid out huge amounts in dividends instead of investing more in water infrastructure. The candidates clearly 'got' the strength of feeling about these issues and there was no shortage of ideas about what needs to change. But, if this hustings is anything to go by, the incoming government will be expected to take swift action to start putting things right'*.

Plans to support nature recovery and improve biodiversity at Castle Howe

Initial plans are being suggested by Kendal Town Council and Westmorland and Furness Council Officers to support nature recovery and improve biodiversity at Castle Howe. There is a commitment to develop community involvement around this project and work closely with Natural Kendal, Fellside Forum and the Civic Society.

The area could be seen as part of the 'nature corridor' between the top of Brigsteer Road and the river, down the Blind Beck Valley.



Castle Howe neighbours the area of the Fellside Forum and the Forum are will be discussing the project at their meeting 16th July. We are arranging an initial meeting to support nature recovery and improve biodiversity at Castle Howe and the Blind Beck Valley 7pm, 24th July, Abbot Hall Social Centre. Please let us know if you are interested in attending.

New funding available for community orchards



Westmorland and Furness Council has launched a second round of funding for its Community Orchard Fund which helps communities to establish community orchards in their local areas. Community groups, charities, schools and community spaces in Westmorland and Furness are encouraged to apply for funding to establish a community orchard in their local area. A community orchard is a shared space where people can grow fruit and nuts. They are a great way to bring people together, improve the natural environment, and provide access to fresh, local produce.

Grants of up to £10,000 are available to plant a minimum of 5 fruit and/or nut trees planted until 31 March 2025. The funding can be used to cover the costs of establishing an orchard such as ground preparation, purchasing and planting trees, and protection and irrigation.

For more information about the scheme and to apply for funding, please visit the [council's website](#) or email: FutureTrees@westmorlandandfurness.gov.uk.

Reimagining Landscapes Conference: The Rights of Nature



The second Reimagining Landscapes conference is called to continue the locating of new narratives that reappraise our relationship with the natural world. At this time of unprecedented ecosystem upheaval and species loss, we also have the knowledge of how to enact repair. Part of this process of repair is the paying of deep attention to what landscapes, wildlife, habitats and communities of all kinds are telling us.

Our speakers therefore represent a broad range of interests and specialisms, including writers, artists, activists, ecologists, musicians, performers, farmers and land managers. From species restoration experts to animal rights activists and from farmer-led carbon conversations to nature restoration in cities, together they evidence how as a concept reimagining landscape is now embedded across mainstream dialogues as a way of provoking and maintaining progressive change.

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/reimagining-landscapes-conference-two-day-conference-tickets-tickets-904655457827>

Kendal College Animal Rescue Centre

You will have seen these eye catching 'ghosts' of hedgehogs around Kendal. Another great initiative of Kendal College Animal Rescue Centre. Kendal College has also been recognised as a Hedgehog Friendly Campus.

Hedgehogs are recognised as Britain's favourite mammal due to their unique and cute appearance, and they are very popular amongst gardeners as they are efficient hunters of unwanted bugs and slugs.



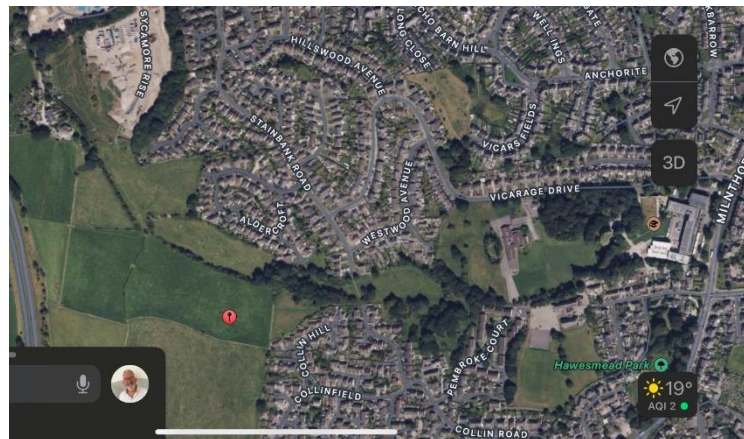
However, hedgehog numbers have fallen by 30% in the last decade or so and are just about beginning to stabilise in urban areas. According to the British Red List for Mammals, hedgehogs are now categorised as 'Vulnerable to extinction'. Contributing factors to the decline of our prickly pals include habitat loss and fragmentation, road casualties and garden hazards

Save the Vicarage Drive 'Green Wedge'

In relation to biodiversity concerns, the Local Authority Development Brief 2015 for Brigsteer Rise 4 is not being followed by Story Homes.

The brief states that 'the Vicarage Drive **Green Wedge**, providing new green spaces and green links accessible to all, and a design and layout that responds sensitively to the site's high quality landscape setting and location' should be maintained.

Previously developers of this part of Kendal have understood the importance of the 'Green Wedge', that encourages a biodiverse local ecology to link through from the scar habitat to the heart of the southern estates of the town. The development of Brigsteer Rise 4 (marked with a 4 on the top map and a red dot on the lower map) will cut off the green corridor, that the community has protected for this whole area of Kendal, to support a more balanced naturally biodiverse ecology.



Adequate consideration has not been given to the general wildlife value of this location. Through previous phases of the Brigsteer Rise development, we have already lost many songbirds, barn owls, visiting roe deer, stoats, other mammals and amphibians from this area, with no provision or alternative habitat provided in the vicinity. Aside from this the fields where the proposed development is located have an inherent value as rough grassland with scattered scrub which is valuable for a large number of foraging and nesting birds and invertebrates.

This type of natural environment is increasingly being lost through similar developments and the likes of our everyday nature is rapidly being squeezed out with nowhere left to move to. The surrounding land is close cropped farmland or housing developments where the greenspace within them is increasingly being paved over. No consideration has been given in any of the ecological reports to functional connectivity of surrounding habitats, which should be considered in light of the Cumbria Biodiversity Action Plan and the pilot Cumbria Local Nature Recovery Strategy.

The boundaries of the development should be pushed back to maintain the integrity of the green wedge

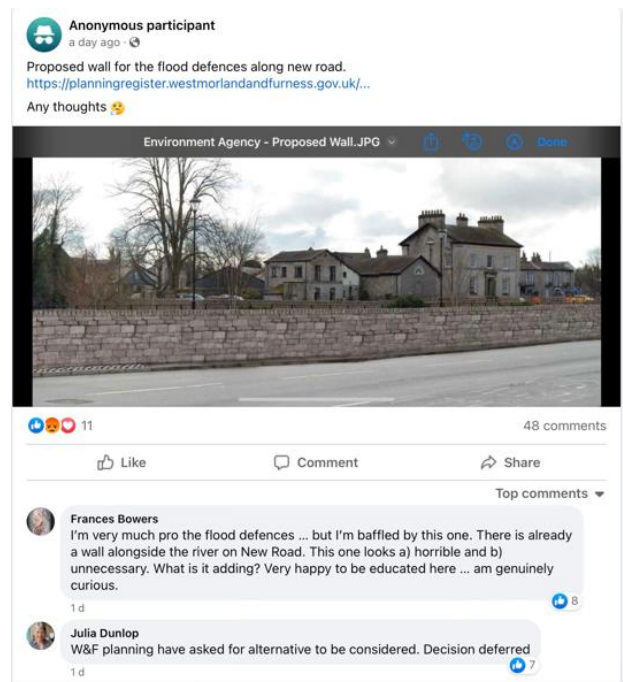
This is an extract made on behalf of Natural Kendal on the W&F Planning Portal 2023/1061/FPA that closes 12pm Wednesday 26th June 2024. Please make a submission.

Flood Defences at New Road hits a stone wall

The Flood Relief Scheme Management plans that are being implemented in Kendal have hit a stone wall at New Road. The flood defences have impacted on the natural environment in many ways. A great deal of work has been put in by hundreds of people to try and get the balance right between protection from flooding and retaining the community's 'connectivity' to wildlife of the river Kent.

The flood wall proposed to run along New Road has hit a storm of protest especially as it could cut the town off from the river and the New Road Park. The Environment Agency have outline planning permission, granted in 2019 to build the wall in this position. The Town Council campaigned for glass to be put in several sections of the wall. This however has not been applied to this section of the wall.

Many local people have suggested through the Planning Portal that the position of the existing river wall would be a better option for new flood defences. The Environment Agency think this would cost too much and want to stick close to their original 2019 plan.



Westmorland and Furness Council Planning Committee have deferred a decision on the wall and ask the Environment Agency to talk to Kendal Town Council as to find a solution that could gain wider support.

Lancaster Canal Regeneration Partnership and the Canalathon



The gentle triathlon with a paddleboarding twist! Join us in the beautiful Crooklands area just south of Kendal for a laid back and fun challenge event to enjoy paddleboarding (2.8k), running (2.5k) and cycling (10k)

Date: August 31 2024 Location: LA7 7NZ Cost: £15 (donation towards Towpath Trail improvements)

Lancaster Canal Regeneration Partnership has also asked Kendal Conservation Volunteers to undertake a baseline assessment of the vegetation along the Kendal end of the canal towpath (ie the bit between the recycling centre and the Town' boundary near Natland Road). All with a view to developing plans for future biodiversity enhancements. Anyone interested in being part of this fieldwork this, please contact helen@lancastercanaltowpathtrail.co.uk

Communication for Natural Kendal

There is a Working Group shaping up ideas about Natural Kendal's online presence, social media and ongoing communication across the Natural Kendal network and partnership. If you have ideas or time to contribute to that please let us know.

Whatever you can contribute to nature recovery in Kendal and any news you want to share as we shape up the communication options, please contact craig@hylandshouse.co.uk



Kendal Swifts

Supported by 

Swift Awareness Week 2024

Free event! Saturday July 13th from 2.30 to 4pm *Light refreshments available!*

Our Kendal Swifts Expert Ros will give a talk on our wonderful swifts followed by some swift inspired crafts

Fellside Centre, Low Fellside, Kendal LA9 4NH

Afterwards (weather permitting) tour the building to view the swifts & their nesting sights

For more information email kendalswifts@outlook.com



JOIN US FOR THE OPENING OF OUR NEW COMPOST DEMO. SITE

AT APPLEBY ROAD COMMUNITY GARDEN AT KENDAL QKS

SAT 13th JULY 10-3 PM

Come and celebrate this new demonstration site set up in collaboration with the Cumbria Master Composters project. Learn about all things compost and have a look at a variety of home composters in action

STAY FOR A CUP OF TEA AND A WANDER AROUND THE GARDEN HAVE A GO AT SOME FAMILY FRIENDLY ACTIVITIES INCLUDING OUTDOOR MOSAIC MESSY SEED BOMBS TINY TREASURE STICKY BOARDS & MORE

 For more information contact chris.arcgarden@gmail.com
Follow @applebyroadcommunitygarden