

Greenies' Annual Report May 2023

Last year was challenging, with the changes in weather: high temperatures and lots of rain - but at the wrong time. We had no water for the summer months, and lost quite a few squash plants and beans. Onions and potatoes were good crops though, and the beetroot was marvellous! We had a good apple harvest, and blackberries were prolific.

We enjoyed feeding the community, that is local deer, badgers, squirrels, foxes and a wide variety of birds. Enjoyment was also tinged with frustration! We caught quite a few of these creatures on a wildlife camera. The deer especially took a shine to parsnip tops, which are supposed to be toxic for humans. In spite of them, we had a good parsnip crop. We lost two beds of sweetcorn to, probably, badgers and corvids ... but possibly small rodents as well. We are learning to live alongside them by making lots of new cages for the beds.

Early this year, we performed a wassail in the orchard, an ancient ceremony to ensure the trees provide a good harvest of fruit. It was fun, and also interesting to do a ritual that is strongly rooted in English country lore.

The social prescribing scheme in Rushcliffe took us on board. We had several referrals, but sadly Greenies, although much admired, didn't fit the bill. This year, we have been asked to go into the Big Green Book which has been developed as part of the **GreenSpace** Green Social Prescribing Project and is a directory of nature-based activities and opportunities around Nottinghamshire.

Do come and join us, or just come for a visit to see what we do. The field is a wonderful place for relaxing, enjoying nature and perhaps doing a spot of gardening!