



Chudleigh Wild AGM report for 2025

The AGM was held at Chudleigh Town Hall on 23 January 2026, and followed by a quiz.

Chairman's Report (Dave Smallshire) incorporating Secretary's report

Achievements in 2025

Newsletters – 3 issued; many thanks to Sue for producing these (and articles in *Chudleigh Companion*); articles for the Newsletter are always welcome.

Harcombe Orchid counts – 1379 flowering orchids of 5 species counted (including 596 Greater Butterfly Orchids) in coordinated counts; area 6 did not get cut – National Highways informed.

Stancott-Amberley Woods survey – did not become a CWS due to landowner complaint.

River Teign Restoration Project – thanks to the volunteers who undertook three Riverfly Surveys and monthly Water Quality Surveys. Project ended in 2025, but CW committed to continuing with both surveys. Anyone wish to join us? Riverflies may be declining on Kate Brook.

Open Gardens – very successful: 14 gardens; £885 raised; thanks to Emma, Hannah, Mandy, Jayne and Sue for organising and to the gardeners for partaking.

Chudleigh Garden Show Wildlife Garden Award – 5 gardens entered; prizes for winner (Court Ralla) and runners up.

Wild About Devon Award – CW was runner-up Community Wildlife Group.

Bats – Further GHB surveys: crossing in relatively large numbers across Station Hill; streetlights have now been set to the more bat-friendly colour temperature of 2,700 Kelvin, with progressive dimming through the night.

Oldway Batfields – worked to keep the 'batrun' route clear for GHBs, with help from Ross Klinkenberg, Peter Warn and DWT volunteers.

Development – CH2 proposals for Public Open Space (1.5 fields): to be managed with wildlife in mind by a Management Company, rather than CTC.

CW events – Ugbrooke Family Fun Day in April, Swift Watch evening in July, community bat evening in September, lichens walk in September and waxcap walk in November; talks: DS spoke on Wildlife of the Teign in October, Shira Rub presented 'Murder in the Garden' in November.

Lawn Drive grass cutting – CW (Peter Warn) continued to cut the verges, with help for the hay cut in July. The CTC mower cut 'our' verges twice!

Wildlife highlights of 2025 – Swifts again using Globe nestbox, 2 Otters Kate Brook in December. But, no Peregrines in Palace Quarry (bird flu?); few Goshawk sightings; poor for waxcaps; Sparrowhawks hitting windows.

Treasurer's Report (Keith Benyon-Tinker, 23/01/26)

Date	Details	Credit	Debit	Balance
24/01/25	Opening Balance in Bank			£2667.10
	Expenditure during year		£543.89	
	Income during year	£885.00		£341.11
24/01/26	Closing Balance in Bank			£3008.21

1. Petty cash in hand £50.00
2. Cash retained for future expenditure: £206.06
3. Major items of expenditure during the year:
 - ACT £100.00
 - Zurich Insurance £201.15
4. Major item of income during the year
 - Open gardens £885.00
5. Scheduled expenditure: Lawn Drive interpretation boards

Thanks – to Committee members for their input during the year, including Peter for cutting the verges, Emma for maintaining the website, sending out newsletters and other mailings and taking care of our social media output. Thanks also to our 8 ACT Wildlife Wardens and our Riverfly and Water Quality Monitors.

The coming year

- Open Gardens will be on 13-14 June, to be organised by Mary and Emma Rush.
- Lawn Drive interpretation boards.
- Encouraging wildlife gardening, especially new builds.

Officers and Committee for re-election

Officers: Dave Smallshire (Chair), Keith Benyon-Tinker (Treasurer), Secretary Mary Rush

Other Posts: Audrey Compton (Events Officer), Tessa Frost (Bat Surveys Organiser), Sue Smallshire (Newsletter Editor), Emma Smith (Website and Social Media), Peter Warn (Lawn Drive grass cutter)

Other Committee Members: Hannah Bone, Vicci Camm.

ACT Wildlife Wardens: Vicci Camm, Audrey Compton, Val Compton, Tess Frost, Ben Jansen, Sue Smallshire, Barbara Steele, Peter Warn.