



FRIENDS OF RISING SUN COUNTRY PARK

Chairperson's Annual Report – 2024-2025

Executive Summary



The aims of the Friends Group are:

- To promote conservation, protection and improvements to the park environment and advance local community education of these areas.
- To work in partnership with relevant 'stakeholders' in the park for local community benefit.

Over the past year, volunteer numbers have remained small but steady, which has allowed the group to continue working towards aims as set out in the constitution.

During our regular Thursday morning volunteer sessions, we have been involved in maintenance activities in the centre grounds and wider park under supervision of the Park Officer. We have provided help with new tern islands on Swallow Pond, been involved in bulb and tree planting, and learned heritage skills, creating hazel hurdles for the Celtic village.

Litter picking sessions have been held throughout the year. We collected 157 bags of rubbish in 2024 (logged with Keep Britain Tidy) and are well on the way to exceeding this in 2025.

We have supported Nature Walks and participated in several citizen science projects recording wildlife in the park.

We have also helped the Park team with public events in the summer and at Christmas plus provided additional extras in the way of trails and nature spotting sheets during school holidays to engage families.

Developments in The Backyard have been made to boost allotment biodiversity, such as adding hoverfly lagoons and toad abodes.

Funds were raised through the selling of duck food, 2025 calendar and greeting cards in the Rising Sun Café. We must thank the catering staff for helping to facilitate these sales. We also extend this appreciation to the staff at Earth & Fire Bakery who helped with calendar sales.

A positive year! Everything we have achieved is due to the ongoing commitment of the committee, the park team, the dedication and hard work of the volunteers, and the support received from park visitors.

Thank-you all.

Claire Partleton

May 2025