

## **Ideford joins Wildlife Warden scheme**

Most of us in the village are fond of wildlife and want to do our best to help nature flourish. It is for this reason that Ideford has now joined the **Wildlife Warden** scheme set up by **Action on Climate in Teignbridge (ACT)**.

ACT was created in 2019 to help residents and councils build climate-friendly communities, with increased and thriving wildlife. It aims to train Wildlife Wardens in every parish to work with their communities to make each parish a better home for nature. So far 34 of the 50 Teignbridge parishes have Wardens and two Ideford residents – Dominic Morby and Robin Aaronson – have now agreed to take on the role. There is no limit on the number of Wardens, so we'd be delighted if anyone else wants to join us, across the age range.

Some of the things that Wardens in other parishes have done are:

- providing advice on wildlife-friendly gardening (eg pollinator plants, ponds, alternatives to insecticides)
- surveying the parish to see what wildlife is present, which habitats are in good condition and which might be improved (this could be as simple as encouraging people to do the Big Garden Birdwatch or Big Butterfly Count, or maybe a hedgehog survey)
- adopting a roadside verge, through Devon County Council, and managing it for wildflowers
- assessing planning applications for their effect on wildlife, proposing mitigation measures and checking that they are put into effect.

We will work closely with the Parish Council and we want to emphasise that this is not about telling owners of land or gardens what to do. The Wardens aim to be a catalyst for projects that people want to do anyway. We expect Ideford residents to approach us – not the other way round!

There is more information on the scheme at [actionclimateteignbridge.org](http://actionclimateteignbridge.org) (click on Topics) and we will provide updates in future issues of the magazine.

**If you have any ideas on wildlife in Ideford, or want to know more about the role, please contact Robin (07792 533310, [grandvizier51@gmail.com](mailto:grandvizier51@gmail.com)) or Dominic (07469 940846, [dominic.morby@gmail.com](mailto:dominic.morby@gmail.com)).**