

Natural Axmouth

Report to Axmouth Annual Parish Meeting, May 2014

Natural Axmouth became a community group in October 2013 with membership open to anyone in the Axmouth community who is committed to conserving and enhancing our natural environment. It has links with the Axe Vale and District Conservation Society and Devon Wildlife Trust.

Projects undertaken in 2013-14

Brook survey

EDDC Countryside team and Devon Wildlife Trust helped a community survey of the brook's wildlife and plants in July 2013. The results (on the parish council website) enable recommendations to be made to the parish council over management of the brook, eg during the contracted November clearing.

Survey of house martins, swallows and swifts

Nest locations and the breeding success of these birds in the village were recorded and sent to Devon Biodiversity Records Centre and to the Devon County Bird Recorder. Results and suggestions for interested householders were published in the parish magazine and AVDCS newsletter. Consideration is being given to a project with the East Devon AONB to encourage swifts (a threatened species) to nest in the church tower.

Trial 'special' verge for bio-diversity

Following the brook survey, and a talk given by Rob Beard of Natural England, a scheme to restrict grass cutting between April and July along a designated section (with red posts) was agreed with the parish council and Devon County Council. The results will be surveyed during the summer and residents' views canvassed.

Chair, Crescy Cannan