

Welcome to the third

Nether Edge and Sharrow Sustainable Transformation (NESST)

Annual General Meeting

Tuesday 24th October 2023



NESST, Nether Edge and Sharrow Sustainable Transformation, is a common endeavour by the community of Nether Edge and Sharrow to watch over, maintain and improve our urban environment.

Agenda

Formal Business

- Chairperson's Report on NESST's Achievements in the last year – Paul Selby
- Treasurer's Report on NESST's financial situation – Jo Millett
- Election of NESST Committee Members – Paul Selby
- Brief update from the NESST House Sparrow Initiative – Sally Weston

Presentation

- Educational Talk about Wildlife Holidays in Europe – Paul Selby

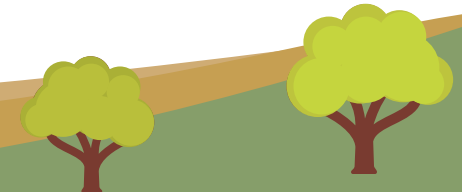


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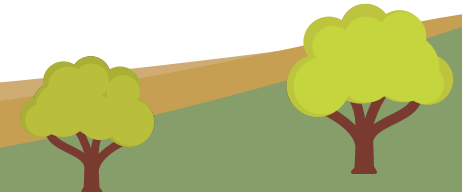
Chairperson's Report – Paul Selby

- Continuing the work of our predecessor organisation, Save Nether Edge Trees (SNET), to ensure the 160 street trees in our area that the Council aimed to fell, were not actually felled. 70% of these are now formally saved, with nearly all the remaining 30% anticipated to be formally saved in the coming 18 months. Progress at the Council is glacial, but the work continues.
- Continuing to work with Sheffield Council to persuade them not to fell 20+ large trees on Washington Road and Cemetery Road as part of the Connecting Sheffield initiative.
- Ensured most of the 135 additional street trees planted in the NESST area since early 2022 survived the driest May/June the UK has ever had, by coordinating the watering of these trees. (Sadly, look at other parts of Sheffield to see what would have happened if we hadn't).
- Coordinated efforts to fund a further 65 street trees in the NESST area, 56 of which are on roads which had no street trees prior to 2022.
- Worked collaboratively with Sheffield Council and Amey to get them to sign up to our vision to plant between 23 and 70 street trees in the economically deprived and canopy deprived streets of Highfield and Lowfield.
- Increasing NESST membership by another 5% in the last 12 months, to just under 470 members.
- Supported Ryle Road residents to create a wildflower meadow on their abandoned pavement, which they are now have stewardship for.
- Provided advice to Meadow Bank Avenue residents about their wildflower meadow in their centre green. (They were disappointed in the results from Year 1).
- Created a new perennial wildflower meadow and nectar rich hedge in Chelsea Park, working with Sheffield Council and the Friends of Chelsea Park



Chairperson's Report – Paul Selby

- We have continued to update the data in the map of all the green and brown spaces in the NESST area, 309 in total, of various sizes.
- Continued to lead the S7 Swift initiative, and coordinated the erection of close to 30 Swift nest boxes in the S7 postcode area.
- Continued to run a series of Educational Talks and Walks each month, including:
 - Planting Trees, not Painting Trees Talk
 - A weekend walk searching for the River Banner
 - Habitat creation for butterflies and other pollinators Talk
 - The new street trees in the NESST area evening walk
 - More Bees Please Talk
 - The lost brooks of Nether Edge walk (x2)
 - Hedgerows for Nature and Wildlife Talk
 - Plants from an Insect's point of view Talk
- The NESST House Sparrow sub-group has done some amazing stuff, about which they'll give a 5 minute update, after the formal business, and before my Educational Talk.
- However:
 - These achievements are only occurring because of the coordinating activities of a very small number of people.
 - We have the administration capacity and membership willingness to do many great things if we call upon them to act.
 - But we have virtually no coordinating capacity at all, and so we aren't calling upon members to act as much as we could.
 - NESST is therefore not yet fulfilling its full potential.
 - If we don't get more volunteers willing to coordinate initiatives, either from existing Committee Members or new Committee Members, we may have to retrench further and focus only on one or two priorities.



Treasurer's Report – Jo Millett

- Previous balance 22nd October 2022: £28,279.95
- Income 22nd October 2022 to 17th October 2023: £67,210.18
- Expenditure 22nd October 2022 to 17th October 2023: £15,214.17
- Balance as of 17th October 2023: £80,275.96

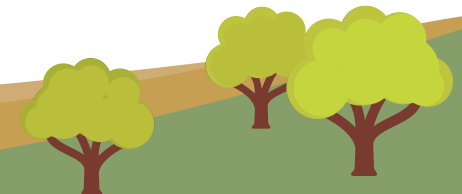
Income

- £5,000 donation from NESST's anonymous benefactor
- £500 Magic Little Grant from Localgiving for House Sparrow project
- £1,480 from sparrow box sales and donations
- £35,200 raised through either Localgiving Crowdfunders or other donations for 66 street trees on 17 different roads in the NESST area
- £23,592 (after fees) from Aviva Wildisles Crowdfunder for Greening the Grey Streets project
- £1,100 from Abbeydale Street Trees for Greening the Grey Streets project.
- £111 share profits sale of elms with the Wildlife Trust
- £226 interest on savings (opened July, interest rate currently 1.94%)

Expenditure

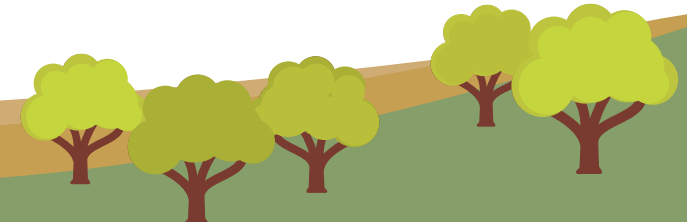
- £13,040 payment to Sheffield City Council for 20 street trees Nether Edge Village
- £355 printed leaflets for street trees and membership
- £1,116.42 House Sparrow box materials & fitting fees
- £189.98 Chelsea Park meadow - wildflower seeds and fencing
- £512 on fees for talks, room hire, bank charges, Public Liability Insurance and membership of Localgiving

We are still awaiting an invoice from Sheffield Council for trees planted in the previous season to the sum of £23,461



Election of NESST Committee Members

Role	Current Committee Member	Proposed Committee Member
Chairperson	Paul Selby	Paul Selby
General Secretary	Helen Kemp	Helen Kemp
Treasurer	Jo Millett	Jo Millett
Vice Chairperson	Mark James	(Vacant)
Membership Secretary	(Vacant)	(Vacant)
Equal Opportunities and Diversity	(Vacant)	(Vacant)
Education and Outreach	Mark James	(Vacant)

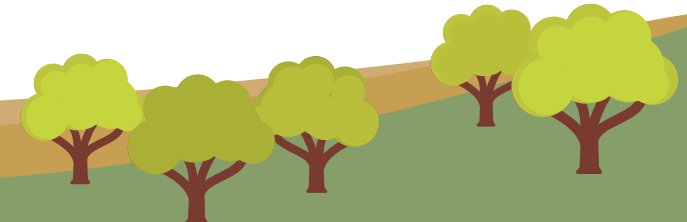


Specific update from the NESST House Sparrow Group

- We have developed an action plan based on the original 2022 House Sparrow survey and further research on reasons for the 70% decline in the sparrow population.
- Activities have included:
 - Regular working group meetings and communication with the wider NESST sparrow group (25+)
 - Developing Paul Selby's interactive House Sparrow map (see NESST website)
 - Identifying green spaces for planting seeds and hedgerows - 150+ packets of Bird friendly wildflower seeds distributed in targets areas near sparrow colonies
 - Networking with key individuals and organisations
 - Fundraising
 - Raising awareness/publicity via targeted leaflets and stalls at farmers markets and other local events
 - Making and installing 58 nest boxes and 15 x 3 bed sparrow terraces
 - Organising the NESST educational talks on insects, hedgerows and gardening for wildlife
- We are currently planning a 2nd sparrow survey for 2024 to monitor any changes



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Educational Talk: Wildlife Holidays in Europe

Background

- I did my first one in May 2016, to the unspoiled primeval forests of Bialowieza in Poland.
- Since then I've done a further 19 trips in Europe.
- This short talk is about what I've learned while doing them.



What I've seen – The scenery (1)



What I've seen – The scenery (2)



What I've seen – The scenery (3)



What I've seen – The scenery (4)



What I've seen – The scenery (5)



What I've seen – The wildlife (1)



What I've seen –
The wildlife (2)

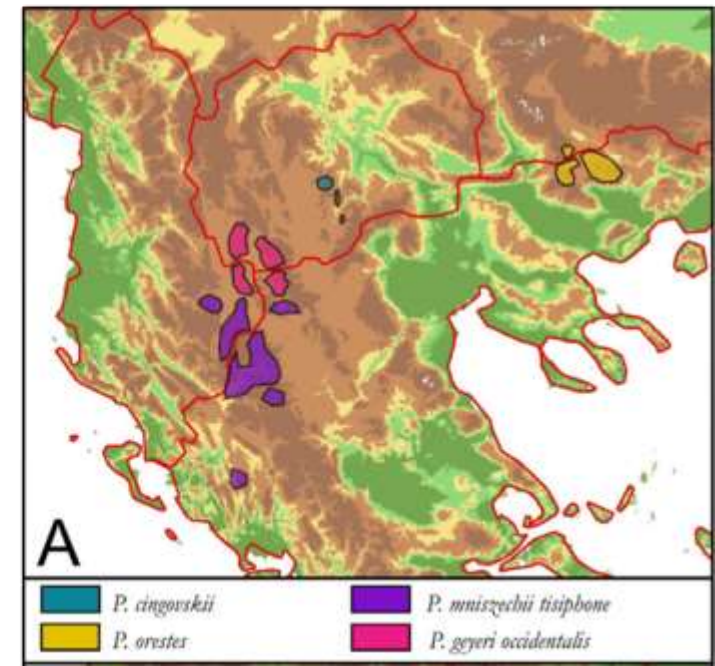
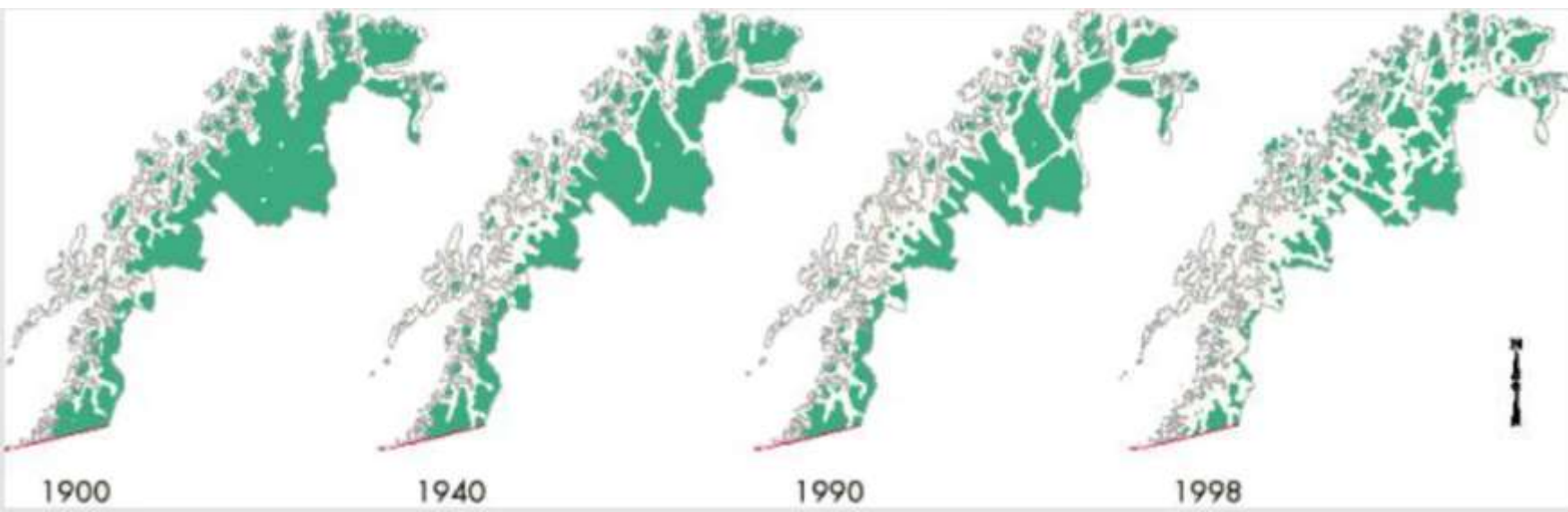
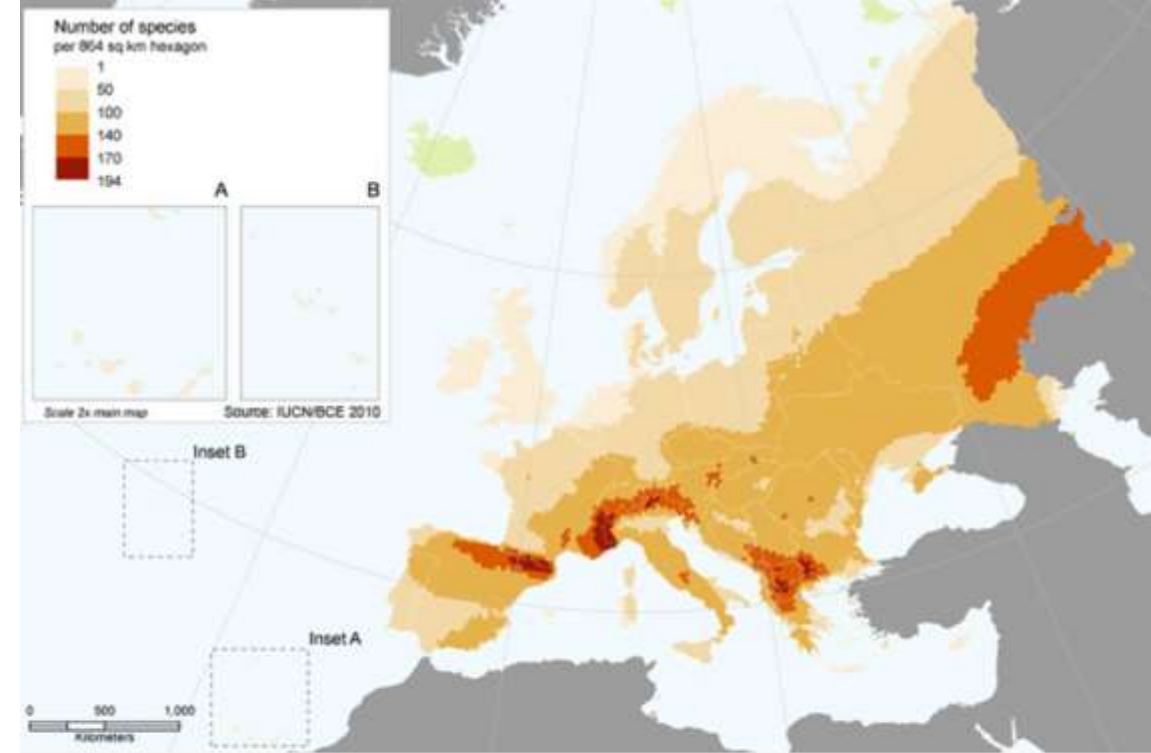






What I've learned

- Climate change – impacts are hugely consequential.
- Agricultural intensification
- Agricultural abandonment
- Separation of habitat
- Monoculture
- Nutrification
- Invasive species – eg Tree of Heaven



The Future

- Next year I'm going to be co-guiding 3 butterfly spotting holidays established by two friends of mine, called Mariposa Nature Tours. Specifically:
 - Italian and French Alps – 11th to 18th June
 - Spanish Pyrenees – 3rd to 10th July
 - Spanish Picos de Europa – 11th to 18th July
- If you are interested in joining me, let me know!
<https://www.mariposanature.com/>
- When I retire from work, my intent it to guide five or six tours a year...
-assuming there are any butterflies left to see!



Thank you for attending the
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