

Environmental Volunteer Team. Annual Report 2025/26

The Milton Ernest Environmental Team remains an important resource for the village. Although the Volunteer Team independently chooses which projects to work on, all their activities adhere to the agreed guidelines established by the Parish Council.



The Volunteer Group receives funding from the Parish Council, primarily allocated for Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) such as gloves. Although no purchases have been made this year and the budget remains unused, it is expected that the allocation be preserved for future essential PPE requirements.

209 recorded hours were worked over 48 occasions, between May 2025 and April 2026, saving the Council approximately £2552.00 at minimum wage rates. Unrecorded spontaneous hours by team members are not included in this total.

Work has involved footpath weeding, leaf clearing, trimming bushes and brambles, ditch and hedge maintenance in the playing field, tidying Riverside Meadow around the new trees, and assisting with the biannual churchyard “tidy.”

The Village Garden, once covered in neglected brambles before being cleared last year, has seen remarkable improvements. Our primary school pupils contributed by planting crocus bulbs in the autumn, giving a lovely display in February. A Royal British Legion bench was donated and installed by village residents. Thanks to these efforts, the garden is now a well-kept and inviting space for everyone in the village.



More work has been done this year to enhance the old entrance to the Nursing Home by removing overgrown ivy along the wall and gate posts, to reveal the original stone work, and also enhancing the entrance to the village along the A6. This is in addition to the work achieved last year and the planting of daffodils, which has been noticeable this year.



The Team remains small in number and there have been no new recruits despite advertising, but they have made significant improvements to the look and feel of our village and in turn, have received many thanks from residents for the work achieved. The team would request that the Council would actively engage in a recruitment drive.