

Walmer Town Council

Walmer Peace Gardens Report

Meadow Mowing 2026

Walmer Town Councillor and leader of the East Kent Wildlife Group, Peter Findley and Sarah Fawcett of EKWG and Gazen Salts Nature Reserve visited the Walmer Peace Gardens to make the annual one third cut of the meadow on Monday 28th September using the specialised mower from Gazen Salts NR. This was completed in the morning. One member of the community management group was present. She was able to suggest that the arisings would be raked up over the weekend and disposed of. It is important this activity takes place so that the nutrients in the arisings are removed and the soil becomes more suitable for native grassland species of plant.

The meadow is looking impressive with a wide and increasing variety of grasses and meadow plants. These will be providing suitable breeding opportunities for several species of invertebrate especially butterflies and moths. There were also a pleasing number of large Garden Cross Spider (an "orb-web spider") webs. Several of the day flying moth Yellow Shell and a single Speckled Yellow were found.

There are several piles of grass, twigs and branches and a few log piles. These are excellent habitat piles that provide variety and "age" to the site. One brash pile had a well-hidden Wasp nest demonstrating its suitability as invertebrate habitat. A Common Lizard and a Common Frog were found.

The hedges are maturing well with many Hawthorn and Elder berries though these did seem to have been affected by the drought conditions. These hedges will provide more opportunities for invertebrates to thrive and birds to nest. The grassy areas are beginning to recover from the scorching during the summer.

The site continues to provide a valuable home for wildlife in an urban environment and a quiet, mindful refuge for people. The evidence of the outdoor educational opportunities was also heartwarming.

Bird List – from the British Trust for Ornithology "BirdTrack" project

Weather for 28/09/2026, 09:00: - Rain - light rain. - Temperature: 15.7 °C. - Wind: 6mph, NNW.

Woodpigeon	6	Collared Dove	1
Herring Gull	5	Grey Heron	1
Magpie	1	Jackdaw	2
Carrion Crow	1	Blue Tit	1
Great Tit	2	House Martin	3
Chiffchaff	2	Wren	1
Song Thrush	1	Blackbird	2
Robin	6	House Sparrow	4
Dunnock	1	Chaffinch	1