



## Walden Wombles

### Report for Saffron Walden Town Meeting 2023

Chris Dodge, Barbara Leckenby - Feb 2023

The Walden Wombles were set up in 2021 by Barbara Leckenby and Chris Dodge. This was partially in response to more people out walking during Covid lockdowns and seeing an increase in the amount of litter in the town and surrounding countryside.

We run a group litter pick once a month, usually on the first Sunday, meeting at different locations in Saffron Walden and clearing litter in the surrounding area. Depending on the weather and location, we can have up to 25 volunteers of all ages helping and usually manage to collect a surprising amount of rubbish!

A record of our litter picks can be seen here <https://www.waldenwombles.org.uk/blog/>.



Catons Lane Car Park – 8<sup>th</sup> January 2023

The group has liability insurance, takes the safety of our volunteers seriously, and provides litter picking equipment at each event. This includes refuse bags (from UDC who also collect the full ones), litter pickers and high-viz vests. This equipment is also loaned to individuals who do more regular litter picks in the areas where they live.

Our overheads are not that large, but there are costs involved in the purchase of the equipment and insurance, so we are very appreciative of the grant from Saffron Walden Town Council which allowed us to run the group through 2022.