

This piece was written for the next Hill and Vale by James Riches. He lives in Lyng and came to help with the toad patrol this year for his Duke of Edinburgh award.

We had a really successful year in terms of saving toads but like all patrols around the county our numbers were down from last year. We had a few people from Lyng helping and a lady from Mattishall, along with lots from Elsing. The Toad watch signs are really helpful. We also had a few temporary ones we popped up this year which we might do again on busy nights. I hope you find this interesting at the Parish Council. It's great to have your support!

Best wishes

Chrissy Gold

Save the Toads!



My name is James and I am a student at Reepham High School. I live in Lyng and I am currently doing my Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award. To achieve the Award I must do a physical activity, learn a skill, go on an expedition and do some volunteering.

For my volunteering I have been doing something called Toading. In early Spring toads will migrate to the pond they grew up in for the mating season. This can mean they may have to travel over roads putting their lives in danger. What toading is, is going around your local village (if your village is on a migration route) and finding toads trying to cross the road, picking them up and putting them in a bucket and then bringing them to the pond. Most of the toads move in the evenings and when it is not too cold but damp.

During March I joined the Toad Patrol in Eising, and there is also a patrol in Mill Street. Overall the Eising Patrol saved 2040 toads this season, as well as 26 frogs and 4 smooth newts. The Mill Street Patrol saved 225 toads and 8 frogs. The busiest night was 22nd March when the patrols saved 744 toads between them – lots of people were on patrol that night, and my group alone collected 177 toads and 7 frogs in our buckets! However, quite a few unfortunate toads didn't get rescued so there is always room for more people to take part. Some toads also try and cross Eising Road in Lyng too, so maybe it would be good to have a patrol there as well. Even if you don't want to join the patrols you can help by driving carefully during the migration season.

I really enjoyed toading – it was fun and also felt really good to be saving animals. If you think you would like to do this too, all you need is a torch and a bucket, and look out for information in the Lyng Village Residents Facebook page. You can also find more information in the Norfolk Toadwatch website, <https://toadwatch.org/>

I'm excited to do it again next year!

