

Highnam Parish Council – Environment Working Group Progress

There have been lots of 'special' days in the past month, haven't there? The children will remember Halloween, (at least for as long as the sweets last), and hopefully we all remembered to put the clocks back on the appropriate day! As I write this, on 14th October, it's World Migratory Bird Day. Not that the birds realise that, of course, but it's something that we should be aware of and perhaps help them on their way by putting some extra bird seed out in the feeders. The Environment Working Group (EWG) are doing their bit by continuing to add to the various bird boxes around the parish. The boxes aren't just used for breeding purposes – they will also be providing over-wintering shelter for various species. And another celebration day is coming up – November 5th – Bonfire Night. Not many have their own bonfires these days but, if you do, please ensure that no little animals have used it as a convenient home, before you set fire to the pile.

For those of you who may be new to the village, a quick reminder that the EWG is a team of Highnam residents who volunteer to carry out environmental improvement works in the green spaces around our parish, following the Environment Management Plan that we produced in 2020. If you are interested in seeing the plan, a copy is held on the Highnam Parish Council website, open for all to see. We are well on track to achieving all our targets. Probably the most visible signs of our work around the parish are the pollinator patches in summer and the beautiful carved benches and sculptures, which you will have seen around the village. Not so visible to passers-by, but something that takes a lot of effort, is the work that continues to keep our two woods, Lassington Wood and John's Wood, open and welcoming to wildlife and visitors alike. Our Woodland Working parties are open to all volunteers who would like to help us in this aim. So far this season we have concentrated on the Butterfly Crescent and the bluebell patch in Lassington Wood but there's still lots more to do. Here's what we're planning for the rest of the winter. The usual start time is 1pm, ending at 3.30, with a break for refreshments half-way through.

Friday 3rd Nov - TBC but hopefully Lassington Reach hedging whips weeding & additional planting

Sunday 19th Nov - Lassington Wood (sapling area behind Butterfly Crescent)

Friday 1st Dec - Johns Wood

Friday 12 Jan - Lassington Wood (sapling area behind Butterfly Crescent)

Friday 9th Feb - Johns Wood

If you are interested in joining our Working Party volunteers, please email Adele at wildhighnam@gmail.com.

And finally a plea to keep an eye out for small hedgehogs from late litters, as the weather turns colder. Food will become more scarce so any supplementary feeding you can supply would be very welcome. Wet or dry meat-flavour cat food is ideal. Definitely no milk as hogs are lactose intolerant, so a bowl of water is always welcome. If you find a hedgehog out in daytime, it's either very hungry or ill. Either way, it may be best to contact a local Hedgehog Rescue for advice.

If you would like to become involved in helping with any of the EWG's work, or the Heart of Highnam village improvement group work, please contact: Councillor Bill Badham. cllrillbadham@yahoo.com (01452) 247112