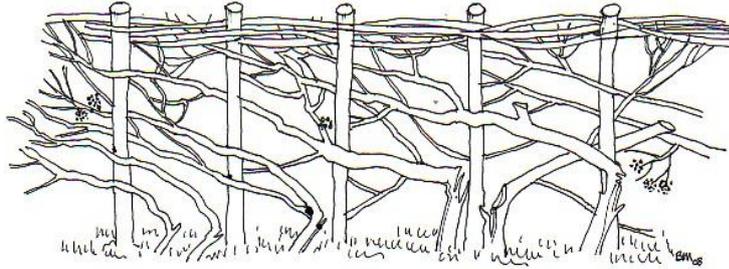


Hedge Laying Again so soon...



This season is the start of many seasons when we will be steadily laying hedges along the north side of the wood and around the Orchard Meadow.

On the 19th of December, Paul Jenks came to show Mark and me how to start the work and give us some vital refresher hints on technique. Many thanks Paul. Though the day started with heavy rain it cleared up just before we were due to start work and we progressed well, managing some 50 feet of hedge between ten in the morning and one o'clock when we stopped for lunch.

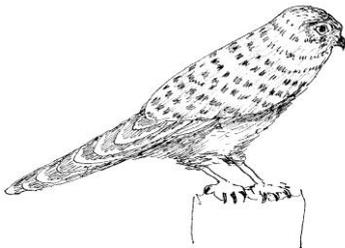
The plan was to continue for both the December and January work days, and, as we assembled for the volunteers 'day on the 30th December I realised we had a potential to cover a good deal more work than I had anticipated for the day. Nine people came and we quickly set to work cutting out all the side shoots from the main stems. This included cutting anything at the back of the hedge that crossed the fence into the next row of bushes. Of this work we managed to complete about 2/3s of the hedge length.

The next task was to drive posts into the ground to support the hedge while it produces new growth. We used all the posts I had prepared and managed to reach half way along the hedge. Following this we had clearing up work and the actual laying of the hedge. The hedge laying involves partially cutting the stem of each bush, bending it over and weaving the stem between the posts. Once the stems are bent and woven, the bindings can be threaded along the top to hold everything in place. Finally any untidy parts were neaten up and the tops of the posts were cut to the same height so it all looks even. We managed to lay to the midpoint of the hedge about two hundred feet along. It is unfortunate I had not prepared more posts though I still have plenty of the hazel bindings for the top. The Wednesday team will continue the work throughout January.

I have to say I am very pleased with the results so far and a big thank you to all those who participated.

Just after I had finished November's newsletter I found a fallen oak branch which was covered in yellow brain fungus and many of the flowers were as big as an ear. It was of such a bright colour I could see it from several yards away. The next day it had unfortunately shrivelled to half the size.

Mark and I saw a kestrel on the 19th of December. These birds were very common in our area but with the rise in the buzzard population they have dwindled to the point where I hadn't seen one for a couple of years.



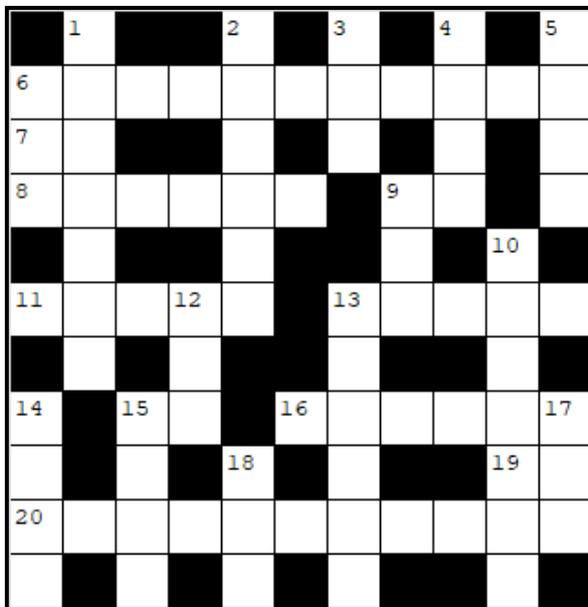
FHW NEWS letter

On January 7th I attended a council meeting with Alex Davies from Berkeley Homes. The news is that Berkeley Homes now own the land at Mascalls Farm by Foal Hurst and have applied for permits to cover the work which will involve coming into contact with Dormice in Brick Kiln Wood. They expect the permits to be granted by early February so they can commence this work in mid to late Feb. Other work such as erecting fences and the felling of some trees on the site could begin as early as mid January. Not all the technical details have been ironed out yet, particularly the foul water system which Southern Water are dragging their feet over.

Our next volunteers' day will be on January 27th so I look forward to seeing you in the Badsell Road carpark at 09.30. We may be continuing with hedge laying or we may be clearing the coppice area after the Estates team felled the remaining trees on the 3rd January. It will depend on how much work the Wednesday team manages to complete.

Peter Prince

FHW Crossword No 140



Clues Across

6. Rural craft, skill,(at FHW), (5,6) 7. To be, (2).
 8. Firm, solid, steady, (6). 9. Personal Data, (1,1).
 11. Underneath, (5). 13. Seaweed, (5). 15. Motoring organisation, (1.1). 16. At hand, (6).
 19. That is to say, (1.1). 20. See 2 down.

Clues Down

1. Rare sighting on 19th, (7). 2 & 20. Brief, colourful Sighting, (6,5,6). 3. *Garrulus Glandarius*, (3).
 4. Avian, (4). 5. Ova, (4). 6. Belonging to him, (3).
 9. Not well, (3). 10. Growth layer of tree tissue, (6).
 12. See 5 down. 13. Tree lined road, (6).
 14. Untruths, (4). 15. First gardener, (4).
 17. Affirmative, (3). 18. Industrious insect, (3).

Solutions to FHW Crossword No139

Across 1 & 22. Rabbit attack. 4. Cool and 21, Damp.
 7 & 19. Honey combs. 8. Log. 11. Make posts.
 14. Fieldfare. 17. Pea. 19. Combs. 21. Damp.
 22. Attack

Down 1. Roots. 2. Bio. 3. Tiese (Apologies for my misspelling - influence of the i before e rule!!!).
 5. Owl. 6. Lug. 9 Oats. 10. Hoar. 12. Able. 13. Mice
 15. Flora. 16. Flock. 17. Pod. 18. Aim. 20. Bat.

Any News?

Items for the next Issue by
 3rd February please, to:-
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