

Rain stopped play...

Sorry everyone, I didn't make the appropriate arrangements with him upstairs.

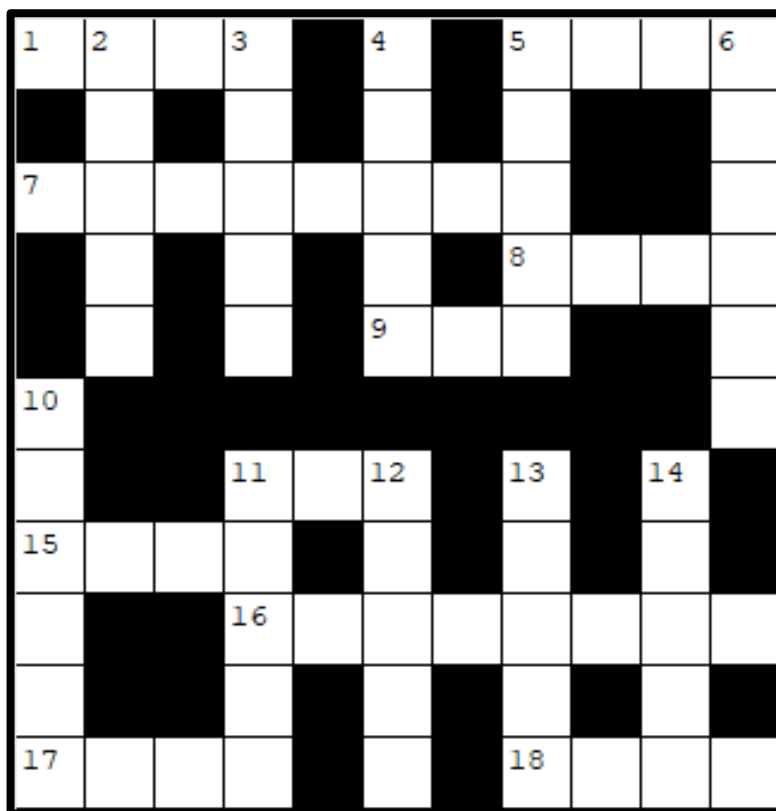
Although by nine-thirty most of the rain had finished I decided to cancel the work day on the 29th because the ground and trees would have been so wet we would all have become soaked through. The tasks for the day involved removing the plastics from the double hedges along the south side and along the inner hedge on the east side of the Orchard Meadow. This would entail crawling around in the mud in between the hedge trunks and we would all have become filthy. The second job for the day was trimming some of the side branches in the hedges to thin them out ready for hedge laying in January. Again, this requires reaching in between the trunks of the bushes and getting drenched from the drips falling from the upper branches as we clip and haul the branches out. It would have been nice to have this work done by now as it would have made the hedge laying simpler in January and February. It just means we will still have to do these tasks in the New Year

The other main task for this season is coppicing but it was still too early for this in September. We will be coppicing in October to December. Over the past month Mark and I have just about finished the ditch we were cutting throughout the summer and we also cleared the scrub which was growing between the two hedges on the east side of the Orchard Meadow. The scrub was mostly new growth of blackthorn suckers from the plants cut when we laid the hedge last winter. There was also a lot of overhanging branches from the two hedges which made it difficult to walk down the centre. Without this clearance it would have been impossible to remove the plastics on the 29th but now it's done it will remain clear until next spring. We should be finished hedge laying by then. Other than that there is not much to report except that Berkley Homes have done some preparatory work on the Mascalls Farm site.

The next volunteer's day is on Sunday 27th Oct. at 9.30. See you then in the Badsell Road car park, bring your family and friends. Don't forget the clocks go back so 9 becomes 8 O'clock.

Peter Prince

FHW Crossword No 145



Clues Across 1. *OH YEAH. !!*, (2,2). 5. *Lepus*, (4). 7. Soaked through, (8). 8. Expand, (4).
9. Female Deer, (3). 11. Type of nut, (3). 15. Repeat, amend, (4). 16. Tree guards, (8).
17. Female Horse, (4). 18. MC / Innkeeper, (4).

Clues Down 2. Rough undergrowth, (5). 3. Eukaryotic organisms, (5). 4. Insect pest, (5).
5. Natural boundary, (5). 6. *Forficula auricularia*, (6). 10. Minor waterway, (6). 11. Small
Woodland, (5). 12. Modified leaf, (5). 13. Channel, drain, (5). 14. Stones, boulders, (5).

Solutions to FHW Crossword No 144

Across 3. August. 6. Flower. 7. Limb. 9. Bud.
12. Tawny. 14. Flora. 17. Cob. 18. Bulb. 22. Meadow.
23. Enigma

Down 1. Elm. 2. Owl. 3. Argus. 4. Gel. 5. Summer.
8. Nut. 10. Gnu. 11. Old. 13. Autumn. 18. Ant.
16. Comma. 19. Bug. 20. Map. 21. Box.

Any News?

Items for the next Issue by
1st November please, to:-
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