



LOCAL NATURE RESERVE

# NEWSletter

Issue No 205

February 2023

## Once More Unto The Hedge Dear Friends...

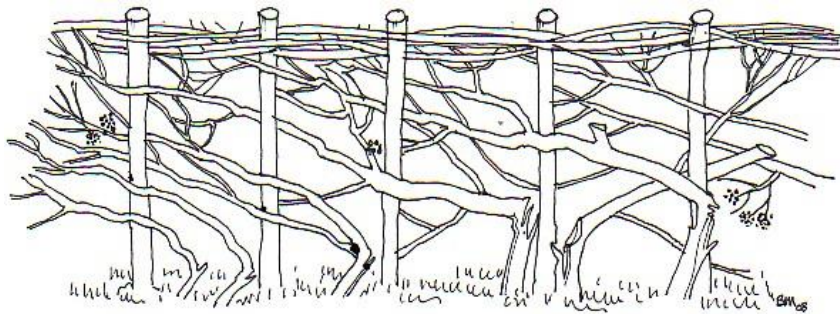
The 29<sup>th</sup> January was a cloudy dull day but there was not much wind and fortunately it was not as cold as it had been the previous weeks. Thirteen people volunteered and we had good conversation together as we made our way to the hedge which was to be our victim. It is the last section of double hedge which borders the south side of the Orchard Meadow and is approximately a hundred metres long. In fact, it is the last hedge laying we need to do until we start all over again in a few years time.

On the 11<sup>th</sup> Jan. I had prepared about fifteen metres of hedge by stripping off the side shoots as a demonstration of what was needed. It can look devastating when the work begins because so much material is removed. People often wonder how the plants can survive, but they nearly all come back with invigorated regrowth and look so much better for the next five or so years. I had also removed a similar amount of wire fence from between the two hedges so that the first section could be laid as soon as we arrived.

Nine people started clearing the rest of the hedge while Ray continued cutting points on stakes. Paul and Linda started laying the hedge and I continued removing the fence and helping where necessary. Everybody seemed to be busy and by the time we had tea break it was obvious we were making good headway.

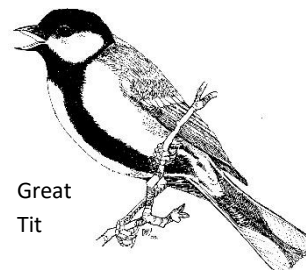
We eventually packed up at 12.30 having completed 80% of the clearing and 25-30 metres of hedge had been laid. I think everyone had an enjoyable time. The newly laid hedge looks pretty good and we now have another volunteer who knows the basics of the skill of hedge laying. Thank you to everyone who came and contributed their time.

It was nice to welcome back Paul who is one of the original volunteers from when the group was started in 2000. Yes, we have been going for 23 years and over that time we have made a significant and positive impact on the area. Long may we continue.



After our efforts on the 8<sup>th</sup> Jan. Steve, Ray, Simone and I continued prepping stakes and bindings in spite of the cold and frosty mornings. On the 11<sup>th</sup> I worked on my own. The 18<sup>th</sup> was a lovely sunny day but cold. The Wetland was frozen over with some lovely star patterns in the ice. The robins were a constant companion as we worked but I also saw great tits, fieldfares, a wren, and a pair of great spotted woodpeckers courting.

On the 25<sup>th</sup> Jan. Ray, Steve and I went in to cut more stakes, of which we need 160, in total. At the end of the morning we had about 60 ready for use. It was a dreary day but the robins were out in force again, some of them being very brave and coming to within a matter of inches as I was working. The weather may have warmed up a little but many of the ponds still had some ice in the corners. However, I saw the first evidence of bluebells coming up under the leaf litter. Promises of spring are in the air after what must be the coldest January for many years.



Great Tit

Peter Prince

## FHW Crossword No 170



**Clues Across** 1,11.' One of the originals', (4,5).  
 3 & 3 down, 6 down. Age of FHW Reserve, (6,5,5).  
 7. 'That is', (1,1).8. Closer, (6). 9. Roster, (4).  
 10. Plant liquid, (3). 11. See 1. 14. Small wood, (5).  
 16. *Fraxinus excelsior*, (3). 19. Area, (4).  
 21. Wood louse, order of. (6). 22. 'Green' motor, (2).  
 23. See 17 down. 24. Apiary, (4).

**Clues Down** 1. Two in the Orchard Field, (5).  
 2. High flying songster. (4). 3. See 3 across.  
 4. Exclamation of discovery. (6). 5. Small songbird. (3).  
 6. See 3 across. 12. Fungi. (6). 13. *Corylus avellana*. (5).  
 15. Wasp's 'weapon', (5). 17 & 23 across. Main activity on 29<sup>th</sup>. (5,6). 18. Lepidoptera, order of, (4).  
 20. Eggs, (3).

### Solutions to FHW Crossword No 169

**Across** 2. Newts. 7,8. Goat willow. 9. Hot. 10.Rake.  
 11.Wend. 13. Apse. 16. Stag. 19. Paw. 20. Poplar.  
 21. Male. 22. Nanny.  
**Down** 1.1black. 2. No. 3. White. 4. Salad, 5. Hawks.  
 12. Copse. 13. Aspen. 14. Spawn. 15. Ear. 17. Toads,  
 18. Grey. 22. My.

### Any News?

Items for the next Issue by 5<sup>th</sup> March, please, to:-

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