



LOCAL NATURE RESERVE

NEWSletter

Issue No 214

January 2024

Hedge fun for all!

Steve and I continued with the coppicing at the beginning of January but soon ran out of things we could do. The Wednesday team didn't work on the 17th because I had other things going on.

Carl found a seven point fallow deer antler. It was badly damaged either from fighting or because some animal had been sharpening its teeth on it but it was a lovely find and the first I have seen in the wood except for when the stag died in the wood several years ago. There was only one antler so we will have to keep an eye out for the other one.

The storms over the weekend of the 21st caused a little damage with a few small trees being blown down but unfortunately none of the ones I wanted brought down complied with my wishes.

So we come very abruptly to the events on the 28th. Eleven people turned up on what was a calm, sunny and quite warm day. Welcome to Rodney and Jeremy who came to sample our version of hard labour for the first time. I hope they both enjoyed their morning.

We clipped the east of the car park hedge because we did the west side last year. Some people worked in the car park while others worked on the other side of the hedge in the Flower Meadow, we just about finished the task by elevenses. I always think that this half of the hedge is easier than the west side. Perhaps it is because there doesn't seem to be so many prickly shrubs but I wonder if the trees along the gravelly stream, which cast a morning shadow over the east hedge, cause a setback in the hedge's growth. All the clippings were stacked at the end of the car park in the form of a dead hedge where they will rot down over the next few months.

After our snacks and drinks we set to trimming the blackthorn hedge along the west side of the Flower Meadow from the bench under the tree to the new culvert. This seemed to be a dense thicket which I had suspected would take a lot of effort to cut but after one and a half hours we had cleared it back from the path by about four feet and up to seven or eight feet high. The clippings were again stacked into a dead hedge at either end of the work and it all looks very neat and tidy.

All together we had a very productive morning so thank you to everyone who came and gave us their time

I received a message from Nichola Reay concerning two courses taking place at Brogdale in Faversham towards the end of Feb. The first is Orchard Design which is not very relevant now as we already have our orchard but the other is Winter Pruning which if anyone is willing to take on the care of the Orchard for us would be very useful to the reserve.

[HTTPS://brogdalecollections.org/short-courses/](https://brogdalecollections.org/short-courses/) If you are interested and can book in at short notice please contact Nichola and the council will pay for the course for you.

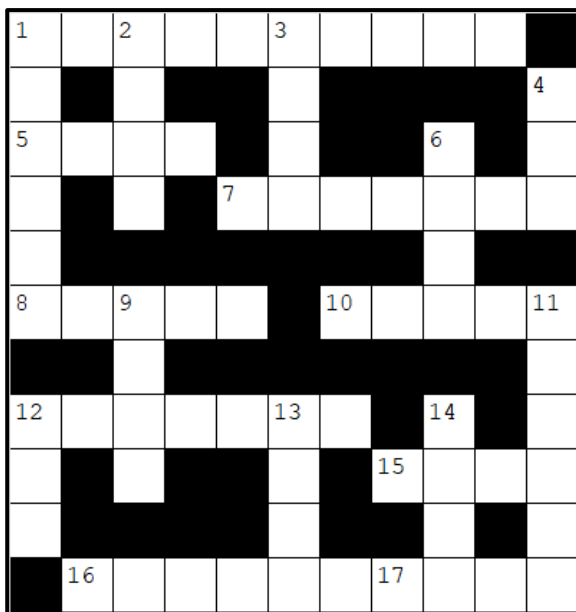
The council will not pay for the Cider Making Course!

If nobody can manage this year it is something to consider for next year perhaps.

The next Volunteer Day is on Sunday 25th February when we will be tackling the thick hedge to the east of the Orchard Meadow. This was laid about six years ago and is desperate for a haircut. See you in the car park at 09.30 all fit and ready to go.

Peter Prince

FHW Crossword No 178



Clues Across 1, 3, 16,17 & 11 down. Carl's discovery, (5,5,6,4,6). 5. *Strigiformes*. (4). 7. Orange butterfly. (7). 8. See 12. 10. Early stage of insect. (5). 12, 8. Blackthorn ? (7,5). 15. Young horse, (4). 16,17. See 1.

Clues Down 1. Winds & Rains. (6). 2. Small rodent, (4). 3. See 4. 4,3. Hedge clipping area, (3,4). 6. Fruit bearing shoot. (4). 9. Precipitation, (4). 11. See 1 across. 12. Seed, (3). 13. Symbol, (4). 14. *Talpa europaea*, (4).

Solutions to FHW Crossword No 177

Across 1. Jelly. 4. Brain. 6. Ark. 7. Log. s. 8. Cuckoo. 10. Spot. 11. War. 13. Pint. 15. Fungus. 18. Shoot. 19. Fly. 21. Frost. 22. Coral

Down 2. Ear. 3. Yellow. 4. Bees. 5. Igloo. 9. Oaf. 12. Rustic ;14.Icier16. Sky. 17. Goat. 20. Lea..

Any News?

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

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