

Dear Sherborne Parish Council,

Please see below for an update from the National Trust in advance of your meeting this evening.

Sherborne Big Nature Better Access Project Updates

- Ewe Pens car park and drive has been resurfaced and repaired ready for busier visitor months.
- Forestry track through East belt woods along A40 was repaired in advance of the Sherborne Fun Run on May 12th. Some further work to be completed in upcoming weeks.
- Interpretation boards regarding Woodland management have also been installed.
- The first 3500 out of 45,000 trees have been planted up at Sherborne Farm. The balance will be planted this upcoming Autumn/Winter with ground preparation beginning in August. All of the required fencing for the project has been installed. We held a walk around the project on Saturday 18th May. Thank you to all who attended. There was good discussion and challenge on a variety of topics and I hope people found it useful. Future walks are shown below.

Wednesday 12th June Bridgeman Landscape | 17:30 - 18:30 | Lodge Car Park

Thursday 11th July Wildlife Creation | 17:30 - 19:00 | Water Meadows Car Park

- Luke and Andrew both took part in the Sherborne Fun Run on May 12th. Thank you to the School for putting the event. It was a lot of fun.
- We are working on a funding bid for the Cotswold District Council Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace fund. Deadline for the bid is May 31st.
- Lodge Park will be open every last weekend of the month (including the last Friday) between April and October.

Countryside Updates

Surveying

The Sherborne Estate Farms Wildlife Monitoring project: Surveying has started across the Woeful Lake farm Highlights so far: wheatear x3, corn bunting, common whitethroat and grey ('english') partridge. Really good numbers of yellowhammer and chaffinch. Many of those species (but especially red listed corn bunting and yellowhammer) are dependent on stubble and margins – they're great indicator species so it is brilliant to see them.

Repairs

Priority list of fencing repairs drawn up for Sherborne Farm. Work on highest priority areas will commence shortly.

Volunteering

April was another busy month for the volunteers – We finished the installation of tubex at Lodge Park, which will hopefully suppress some of the vole issues we have had there. We have also continued drystone walling repairs to the west Lodge Park wall which is starting to look as though

we have made some progress. There was also a lot of work needed to get Lodge Park looking tip-top for visitors on the last weekend of April – car park clearance, weeding and moving stone kept us busy. May has largely been spent staying on top of vegetation, which is finally springing into life, with the added bonus of some moth trapping at the end of the month. We're also working hard to remove a legacy of old tree guards which are in many cases starting to compromise the trees.

We are holding a volunteering day on **March 24th, 2024, between 10:00 am - 2:00 pm. We will be removing Tree guards from Old Park.**

Wildlife

April followed a similar trend to March with wet weather and flooding leading to some unusual species turning up in some unusual places. The steady stream of returning migrants turned into a deluge in the last few weeks – swallows aplenty through the village now, whilst wheatear continue to move through the estate on passage. They have previously been notable by their absence, but a pair of Canada geese have decided to take up residence on the Broadwaters – the estate's first *recorded* record since 2018... We suspect they've moved down from the Bourton Pits where 60 or so pairs feels like a lot.

Regards,

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Project Manager

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