

January February 2025 Update



What to look out for in January and February

- Hard, black ivy berries providing important food for winter thrushes, blackbirds, wood pigeons and blackcaps.
- Male and female robins still defending winter territories with their strident song.
- The first green shoots of ramsons poking through the mud below mature trees.
- Great spotted woodpeckers drumming as the weather warms.
- Hazel catkins extending and wafting pollen into the air, seeking the male red flowers.

Promoting wild flower hotspots

Our fields support a number of wonderful wildlife hotspots, such as the steep, terraced slopes of the East Field. Here flowers such as Common Bird's-Foot-Trefoil and Oxeye Daisy thrive, along with the uncommon Quaking-grass with its beautiful dangling seed heads. In turn, these flowers and grasses support many colourful insects such as the Common Blue butterfly. To ensure that these areas to remain flower-rich we work hard to suppress the more dominant grasses by intense cutting, strimming and removal of the cut material – a challenging job on the slopes.



In the East Field, we have also removed invasive brambles and the few young ash trees that had started to establish there. We removed the trees from this area to stop the grassland ultimately turning into woodland; in the shorter term, if not removed, the fallen tree leaves would also enrich the soil and encourage the spread of plants that would inhibit the specialist wildflowers. However, we more than make up for any losses by planting scores of trees in more suitable places on the fields, hence maintaining a balance.

Planting locally-grown trees in the Inner Field

We are really pleased to be planting around 50 tree saplings in the Inner Field, brought on in our own nursery in partnership with MORE TREES BANES, grown from locally gathered seeds. We have chosen species which are great for wildlife, including alder and silver birch, which will in time carry thousands of seeds for the birds to enjoy. The area selected abuts the Copse and so is a continuation of this habitat. Overall it will provide a new feature in a corner that is currently of relatively low wildlife interest.

The FLHF Christmas Dinner

Instigated by one of our Site Leaders, Dave Pegler, three years ago, this event is now firmly established in our annual calendar. As a social occasion, it complements our annual Harvest Festival party held in September. The dinner this year was once again held at the Bear Inn in Bear Flat, on a Thursday before Christmas. 24 of us, all volunteers or partners of volunteers, enjoyed another excellent party, not subsidised in any way from FLHF funds. The Bear Inn did us proud, with great food, drinks and service.



Photo Gallery

Please check out our [website](#) to view more photos selected by our Photo Team.

Donations to FLHF via Localgiving

If you'd like to support our work in the fields your donations are very welcome. Please do donate via Localgiving on our website

friendsoflyncombehillfields.co.uk

Remember there is an option to donate via direct debit so you may give a small sum every month, for as long as you wish, rather than a single larger sum. Donations to FLHF via Localgiving from UK taxpayers also enable FLHF to benefit from Gift Aid payments.

Volunteering

Typically up to 12 people join us in the Fields on Sunday and Wednesday mornings for a working session from 10.00 to 12.00. You can come as often or as infrequently as you wish. In doing so you will do your bit to improve the local environment and community, and improve your health. We will teach you new skills, and you will find that this is a very sociable activity. There are no fees; all it costs is your time. If you or any family or friends are interested in getting involved, please contact us at lyncombehillfields@gmail.com