

March – April 2025 Update



What to look out for in March and April

- Blackthorn bushes thick with small white blossoms.
- Trees coming into leaf, such as Ash with its hard black buds breaking and its pendulous flowers.
- Woodpeckers drumming and bluetits in the nestboxes.
- Birds singing defending territories such as blackbirds and summer's chiffchaffs.
- White pompom flowers of ransoms, also called wild garlic, providing nectar.
- Bats emerging in the warmer evenings.

Jacob's ladder

Following on from our first efforts two years back, we have pleached (cutting and intertwining horizontal branches) a couple more short sections of (mainly) hazels to encourage the intermittent hedge to thicken up. In addition we have planted a number of young hazels (taken from our tree nursery), to fill in the gaps.

The established hazels are at their best in the spring. They are self-pollinating and don't rely on insects just the power of the wind. The showy yellow flowers are male. The smaller red flowers (which are quite hard to see) are female.



Bird Nesting Boxes

Are you looking for a great reason to visit the Fields? Birds will soon be returning to our many nest boxes to raise their broods. We are particularly proud of the blue tits and great tits that call LHF home, and each year we survey the nest boxes to monitor their progress.

If you can spare a few half-hour slots each week during the spring, to monitor an individual nest box, we would love your help. Please email us at lyncombehillfields@gmail.com, also including your phone number so that we can add you to our Flora and Fauna WhatsApp group.

A Weasel and Other News

How much we have been enjoying the recent warm sunshine, after those endless weeks of clouds and rain in January and February! Our volunteer numbers have now been boosted in recent weeks by students from both Bath and Bath Spa Universities, and other new recruits including Duke of Edinburgh Award pupils.



This has permitted a wide variety of jobs to be tackled in our Wednesday and Sunday working sessions, including more winter-period mowing and raking of the grasslands than in previous years. Primroses have appeared in the East Field, and we await the arrival of cowslips and other wild flowers in the coming weeks.

We continue to obtain evidence from the videos and photos of the (mainly) nocturnal activities of badgers, foxes, deer and various small rodents. These are filmed by a motion-actuated camera which Jack Terrett sets up near our well-hidden 'Tiny Ponds'. These ponds act as watering holes, attracting and benefitting a variety of animals and birds. This has included the first sighting in the Fields of a weasel or stoat (we think probably the latter). We plan to make a selection of these videos more widely available via our website.



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