

## July – August 2025 Update



### What to look out for in July and August

- Hear the growing hum of insects: chirping grasshoppers rub their legs together, called 'stridulation', although some sounds can't be heard by us humans.
- Butterflies, whose caterpillars feed on grasses, are on the wing right now; meadow browns, small skippers, ringlet and the occasional marbled white.
- Brambles are profuse with pink-tinged flowers attracting bees and hoverflies.
- Bats, including Noctules and Pipistrelles fly most evenings, skirting along treelines hunting for moths and gnats.
- The tall black knapweed, and even taller hemp-agrimony and buddleia, all support pretty purple flowers attracting butterflies.

### Queen Elizabeth Day – The Paragon School

Early in June we welcomed ten children from The Paragon School to Lyncombe Hill Fields for their third annual Queen Elizabeth Day. The day has been created to inculcate the joys of volunteering in different sectors at an early age.



Joined by staff and parents together with two volunteers, the children weeded and prepared an area in our small nursery bed ready to plant red campion and cowslip plugs. This was accomplished with much excitement and noise and a great time had by all with job well done! They had a tour of the fields and loved the Tiny Forests.

In the afternoon they played a fun learning game; they had descriptions of species to be found in rich meadows pinned to their backs and through questioning, needed to guess what they were. Again, much hilarity ensued and they finished off by standing in a line in accordance to which species was highest in the food chain. The weather treated us kindly and we look forward to seeing the children next year.

## **Our Sapling Nursery – Another year begins**



Relatively well concealed in a corner of East Field is our sapling nursery. We don't show it on our maps of the Fields, but after our meadows work and our three Tiny Forests it has been the biggest single project that we have undertaken. It now forms a key part of the annual cycle of our work.

It is one of 11 community tree nurseries championed by the More Trees BANES charity. We were keen to get involved because although we had planted nearly 4,000 trees in our first four years, these all came from remote parts of Great Britain.

As our own need for new trees is now rather smaller, we can become a net exporter of trees to other local sites, rather than a net importer.

Commencing in 2023 we grew nearly 1,000 saplings. Some of these (slow growing varieties such as oak and beech) are still in the nursery. Others have been planted at the edges of our Inner Field, or in the hedgerows. Then on 25<sup>th</sup> June 2025 we took delivery of more than 400 new baby saplings, (all grown by More Trees volunteers at their Central Nursery Hub in Twerton), and planted these in our nursery. The varieties comprise Spindle, Gelder Rose, Hazel, Dog Rose and Dog Wood.

## **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](https://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 around 12 people join us in the Fields for two hours on Sunday mornings, with slightly smaller numbers on Wednesdays. During the summer period (from around mid-June) we meet from 09.00-11.00 on Sunday mornings, and from 19.30-21.00 on Wednesday evenings, when temperatures are more comfortable, changing to 19.00-20.30 from late July.

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](mailto:lyncombehillfields@gmail.com)