

March – April 2026 Update



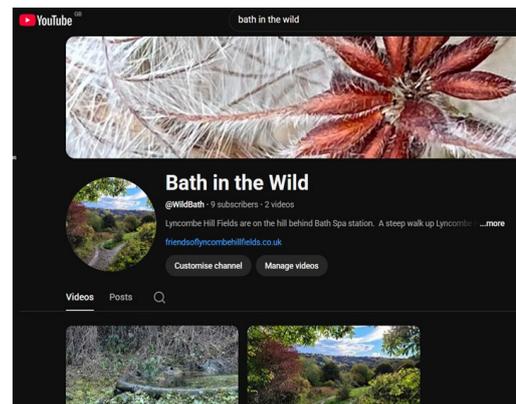
What to look out for in March and April

- 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 ramsoms, also called wild garlic, providing nectar.
- Bats emerging in the warmer evenings

Our YouTube Channel

After a lot of procrastination, we have, at last, launched out into YouTube. Watch out for regular new video material this summer. We will be uploading short pieces on what we are doing, and of course what you might be able to see, but we will be open to requests, with the usual caveats.

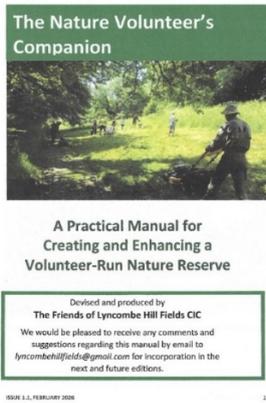
Everyone on any of our WhatsApp groups will get notifications of new uploads and links will be found on our website.



The Nature Volunteer's Companion

Almost from the very beginning of our adventure in these fields, we have been learning how to do things we have never attempted before. Just as important were the things we did, that we vowed never to repeat. With 5 years of mostly successful experiences, it seemed a good time to look back and scribble down what we did and how we went about it.

The vast bulk of our digital booklet involves the practical challenges of things like laying paths, building steps, mowing for wildflowers, planting trees, building benches and collecting and moving rainwater.



There are a few construction projects which are explained step by step, with cutting lists and a list of the tools you might need. There are sections on practical management and some of the legal stuff. We started with a very modest little booklet that soon ballooned into over 40 pages of A4. Hopefully other groups will be inspired to offer their experience, to ensure The Companion grows and develops. If you want to find out more, go to our website (friendsoflyncombehillfields.co.uk) where you can find a green button labelled 'Practical Manual'.

Our South Indian Connection

In our last Bulletin we told you about how one of our volunteers, Bharath Raman Ayyaraju (who recently completed an MSc in Advanced Wildlife Conservation in Practice at Bristol UWE), was setting up a volunteer-based nature recovery project, the Global Green Conservation Connect initiative ('GGCC'), in the South of India. The launch took place at Periyar University in Dharmapuri on 17th February, for which Maurice and Chris made a presentation by Zoom.

GGCC has now acquired seven acres of land in Dharmapuri to create a Nature School with an initial tree nursery and wildlife pond, with potential to acquire a further 30 acres of land for a forest. Bharath has now returned to Bath but will divide his time in future between Bath and Dharmapuri. We plan to continue sharing our experiences.



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 to 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. Our sessions are from 10.00 to 12.00 on Sunday and Wednesday mornings. 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.

If you would like to receive a slightly longer version of this Bulletin by email as soon as it is published in every second month, then please send your name and email details to Ruth Herrlinger at ruthherrlinger@gmail.com