

May - June 2026 Update



What to look out for in May and June

- The dawn chorus is at its richest, with blackbirds, wrens, robins and chiff-chaffs amongst the most frequent singers.
- White flowers abound, from the wild garlic under the hedgerows, to the hawthorn, then the elder bushes.
- The pendulous sycamore flowers and stocky flowers of field maple attract insects.
- About half a dozen pairs of blue tits and great tits using our nestboxes.
- The first of grasses pushing up their spiky flowers, such as sweet vernal grass.
- House martins and swifts chasing insects overhead, and many types of bat at night.

There is no such thing as a dead hedge

If you've walked past the Copse on LHF recently, you may have noticed two new structures created by our busy volunteers - a "laid hedge" and a "dead hedge". A laid hedge is made up of a line of shrubs that are partially cut near the ground and then bent over. They remain alive and will send up shoots to form a thick hedge. This is a traditional hedgerow management technique.

A dead hedge is a strip of dead branches arranged in a row between two lines of parallel stakes. Both form excellent linear wildlife habitats for insects, mammals and birds. The dead hedge is also good for fungi.



The cowslip count is up!



Each year, we eagerly await the emergence of cowslips on the fields. While some have been planted by us, the majority occur naturally and are an important indicator of old grassland. We manage all the grassland to encourage native wildflowers, but target those areas where the cowslips grow with a little extra attention. The exciting news is that this year's count of more than 1,600 flowering spikes represents a remarkable 57% increase on last year.

Busy Boxes: Blue & Great Tit Nesting Update

We've installed 19 blue tit and great tit nestboxes across the Fields, and each spring our volunteers monitor breeding activity. This involves at least one 30-minute watch each week. All observations are then recorded via an online form - so no paper is harmed in the process! So far this year there are early signs that 8 boxes are in use, which is similar to previous years. We hope for a successful outcome, so watch this space for further updates.



A walk around Lyncombe Hill Fields Nature Reserve

June 10 @ 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm



Join us for a gentle walk to explore the diverse habitats within our 10-acre nature reserve, just a short distance from the centre of Bath. Highlights include a visit to our Miyawaki forests, watching scything and mowing in the wildflower meadow, a peek into one of our ponds, and a visit to the tree nursery. Refreshments will be provided, and a chance to chat with our volunteers. Our guides will be happy to answer your questions.

Book your (free) place by emailing lyncomehillfields@gmail.com

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. These sessions are normally from 10.00 to 12.00. Please note however that on Sundays from 7th June will be from 09.00 to 11.00, and on Wednesdays from 10th June will be from 19.00 to 20.30. These timings are more comfortable in the warmer weather. 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. lyncombehillfields@gmail.com.

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