

September - October 2026 Update



What to look out for in September and October

- Green hazel nuts ripen, with empty shells dropping early
- Hawthorn's berries ("haws") also ripen into deep red jewels
- An occasional chiffchaff calls wistfully from a tree
- Voles are at their most numerous and attract swooping kestrels
- Small tortoiseshell and red admiral butterflies on the buddleia
- House martins chirp overhead, flying low when it's overcast
- Bush crickets and grasshoppers also chirp from the long grass
- The robins are singing once again, setting up their winter territories
- Ivy flowers, like golden lollipops, provide a critical food source for bees, hoverflies and even butterflies, and have a sweet honey scent
- As the weather becomes cooler, morning dew bedecks spider cobwebs
- Many sloe, spindle and hawthorn trees are laden with juicy berries
- Yellow leaves are appearing in the field maples as autumn arrives

No doubt about the drought

The obvious signs of climate change have been around for at least a decade. What has surprised many of us is the speed of that change and the severity of extreme weather conditions. Here on the fields we have a general, and a very specific need for rainfall. In general terms, the dry summer we have had is just about OK. Established trees will drop some leaves, and the grass will look exhausted, but they will recover soon enough.

The *specific* challenges we face are where we need water all of the summer. Firstly, our ponds, which draw insects, birds and mammals like a magnet. Secondly, we have a tree nursery in the East Field. Despite the existence of 5 bulk containers, each one storing 1,000 litres of rainwater, the trees are very demanding. That means lots of water collection nearby.



Round again so quickly?



The **BACK TO SCHOOL** posters have been in shop windows for a while, reminding us that the holidays are sadly over. To top that, we need to alert you to the impending time when you have to think about 2027.

What better way to welcome the New Year than turning to the page announcing January? Yes, the 2027 **Lyncombe Hill Fields Calendar**, along with our greetings cards will be on sale as follows:

Saturday 19-Sep	Bear Flat Market	10.00 -12.30
Saturday 17-Oct	Bear Flat Market	10.00 -12.30
Saturday 14-Nov	Widcombe Craft Market	all day
Sunday 15-Nov	Widcombe Craft Market	all day
Saturday 28-Nov	Bear Flat Market	all day
Saturday 19-Dec	Bear Flat Market	10.00-12.30

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