



Devenish Bradshaw Charitable Trust Newsletter

Spring 2022

A project on the meadows, planned and delivered by the 1st Laverstock Scout Troop, called the 'Nature Discovery Area' was officially opened on Saturday 14 May. Funding for this project was kindly supplied by Laverstock and Ford Parish Council and Wiltshire Council Southern Area Board. The project is the result of weeks of



activity by the 1st Laverstock Scout Group assisted by the Beavers and Cubs and supported by Trust volunteers. The fencing was installed by the River Bourne Community Farm.

The Nature Discovery Area features oak signs crafted by Wessex Rehabilitation Unit, a climate change demonstrator showing how the watermeadows help slow flood waters, prevent soil loss and pollution in the river. There are also large and small bug hotels

Andy Chisholm (second left) and other Leaders from the 1st Laverstock Scout Group with Scouts, Cubs and Beavers, Nick Baker, Chair of Laverstock and Ford Parish Council, Saje Hancock from the Community Farm and Jane Wilkinson, Chair of the Devenish Bradshaw Charitable Trust

Near this area the meadows have been seeded with wild flowers and a new hedge laid. In addition there is a wildlife viewing area by River Bourne and a quiet area for study groups further down the river.

Jane Wilkinson





Trustee Amy Whetstone (far left) Trust Volunteers and Scout Leaders.



Beavers with insect hotel, Beavers Leaders Jane and Tom and Nick Baker.

Two of our volunteers, Lucy and Anna. carried out a nature and biodiversity survey at the beginning of March. This is their report:-

With binoculars at the ready, we began our search for signs of spring. Our first stop in barn field led us to a flock of Jackdaws perched on the cattle. We suspect they were gathering materials to build up their nests. Just after a refill of the bird feeders we paid a visit to Willow Copse in the hope of sighting some frogspawn.

To our delight we sighted multiple clusters of freshly laid spawn already developing into clear jelly with black centres. If healthy we may be seeing some tadpoles in about a fortnight.

A stroll along Cow Lane highlighted the plethora of flora and fauna that can be found on the watermeadows. Primroses adorned Meadow Seat, their bloom indicating that spring is now upon us.



While gazing upon these flowers the beautiful sound of the song thrush interrupted our tranquil morning on the water meadows. After recording our findings in the nature logs we rested our binoculars aside, in the hope we will continue to see many more beautiful scenes here at the Laverstock Watermeadows.

It is great to see the return of our resident swans building their nest by the river. If you are passing their nest please keep quiet and ensure any dogs are on their lead.



There are many plans for further works during the summer, reports in the summer newsletter. However one major area of work concerns the dipping platform which is in need of repair.



Work was undertaken during the winter months to cut a rough passage through the dense brambles at the end of the platform. This passage will be developed during the summer months into a gentle ramp making the dipping platform available to everyone.



This year on the Laverstock Watermeadows there are two public events arranged.

The Devenish Bradshaw Charitable Trust are

celebrating national meadows day

on

Saturday 9th July

between 10.30am – 1pm

We have arranged for our team of volunteers to lead free family friendly guided walks across the meadows

There are two walks planned

10.30 to 11.30 wildflowers and wet woodlands

11.30 to 12.30 birds and butterflies

The walks will start outside the Café at the Farm.

Light refreshments are available at the Café at the Farm and the River Bourne Community Farm will be open between 10am and 1pm.

and

Organised by the River Bourne Community Farm on

Bank Holiday Thursday 2nd June, between 3.00 and 10.00pm

Live @ the Farm



for tickets and more information visit

<https://www.riverbournecommunityfarm.org.uk/what-s-on>

Spotted in the River Bourne by the watermeadows



An otter swimming, spotted in on the 27th March



and tadpoles in the spring