
*We would like to
thank all our
volunteers for their
help and support*



Contact Us

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AGM Report

Another successful year for the Sustainable Bourne Valley, thanks to the many volunteers who help with Toad Patrol, Hirst Meadow, the Repair Café and of course the members of the group itself.

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The Village Toads

This season 16 patrollers valiantly carried on rescuing the occasional amphibian over 20 nights volunteering a final total of 55 hours for a result of 191 toads, 9 frogs and 17 newts with the majority arriving on one evening after all that! We believe the numbers arriving were actually much higher this year as that one night was exceptionally wet and warm most of the night and they would have just kept coming on a quiet road. A Tufton patroller saw plenty still arriving on his pre-dawn run! It looked like a holiday camp in the lake with toads swimming, floating and sitting on the bottom. Happily, there was no obvious disruption from rats or otters this year, possibly the toads took them by surprise as well. Fewer arrive from the village itself these days, probably due to the many noisy flashing vehicles, though they still manage to fall into the road drains necessitating deployment of our special hooks and net. Oddly we have had virtually none arriving down the path from the churchyard the last two years which used to be one of our busiest routes, we have no idea why.

Do consider joining us next year for a fun time wandering around watching nature in the dark!



Hedgehog Street



Villagers are encouraged to record sightings of hedgehogs around the village. Records of hedgehog numbers in the village remain low. According to Hedgehog Street, where local sightings are being logged, there have been 5 live hedgehog sightings and 1 dead one in and around St Mary Bourne. Two hedgehog holes have been cut to allow hedgehogs to pass through fences.

To log your sightings please go to:
<https://bighedgehogmap.org/>
or scan the QR code



Wildlife Camera

The Wildlife Camera has seen limited use this year however is deployed currently. Would you be interested to see what wildlife may be in or visiting your garden? Why not borrow our camera?

Thermal Imaging Camera

The Thermal Imaging Camera has only been leant out 3 times over the winter with local usage and further afield in Vernham Dean. If you feel like your home could benefit from a little investigation to heat loss, our camera is available to borrow.

Please get in touch with us if you would like to borrow our cameras.

Hirst Meadow

Last year we had two wonderful helpers, Emma and Lee, who went up to Hirst Meadow on several evenings to spread the school children's very successful yellow rattle seed as it ripened. This year it is flourishing everywhere which is very good news. Last autumn we had a disaster with our viburnum as it disappeared under mounds of wild clematis until invisible and sadly, we did not notice! It was rescued and made vertical again, but may have succumbed to the dry weeks we had recently. Our recently planted junipers had berries last year so are obviously happy and the cowslips and primroses are spreading. Graham Hamlen kindly mows the new perimeter path for us for which we are very grateful and Simon comes regularly to dig nettles. Our main problem is getting enough helpers to get on top of the very enthusiastic growth in the tree area and blackberry patch and we never really catch up all year! But the meadow itself is getting more flowers and pollinators every year.

If you would like to get involved in this wonderful project, please get in touch.



The Repair Cafe

Our monthly Repair Café at The George in St Mary Bourne is a thriving community success. Huge thanks to The George for hosting, and to our volunteer repairers - Nik, Andy, Leigh and Maria - for their time and skills.

Recent fixes include a submarine clock, four hoovers, ten lamps, a lighter, side table and umbrella, plus two bicycles, a mini fridge, a tower fan and plenty of gluing jobs.

Maria has also darned many moth-eaten jumpers (the moths have been busy!), repaired a teddy bear's paw, and even fixed an ewok!

Thank you to everyone helping reduce waste and keep items in use.



Photo by Bob Letherby

The Bourne Valley Partnership

Representatives of groups across the Bourne Valley were invited to attend a meeting to work together to support each other on sustainable initiatives. Representatives attended the first meeting on 26th August 2025 from Hurstbourne Tarrent to Longparish. A follow up meeting was held in February which focused on mapping local initiatives to identify common goals. Further meetings to be held quarterly.

Plant Swop

These happen twice a year with one in late spring and another at our Sustainable Day in October. We have a pot drop or swop bin as well and most pots are reused. We mainly split native flowering perennials, but welcome young trees, house plants, seedling vegetables and annuals.

This year it is on 30th May at 10am by the shop and any donations from anyone who just wants to collect plants will be donated to the local Hampshire swift and bat groups. We also help on the plant stall at the village flower show and any leftover plants are kept for that.

