

Charney Field Woodland Project Update

Work is ongoing on spreading chippings along the bridle path; a first layer was laid down in the winter and a second layer is in progress. Shreddings are also being used to mulch the shrubs and specimen trees. Thanks go to a team of volunteers for this work, including CHAFT trustees, Parish Council members and others.

A suggestion was proposed to the Woodland Project Group that chippings might also be spread along the track onto the field from the Buckland Road; this however will not happen as chippings would smother the natural regrowth of grass on the track, and the owner of the track does not wish it to be chipped.

When mulching and spreading of chippings have been completed and bulb flowering has passed, the next step will be to harrow the cleared area to prepare the ground for autumn tree planting. We are grateful for the assistance of Mr Fitzgerald O'Connor for this.

During February, the stands of shrubs, including cornus, prunus and hazel, were pruned and the willow arbour trimmed back and replanted to restore the original shape. Thanks go to Anna Moffatt and Sylvia Gibbons for their hard work on this.

In March, the focus has been on pruning and reshaping the hedges before the nesting season. Again, we are grateful to a team of volunteers, including Peter Busby's labours on the copse hedge. The resulting thorny prunings have been burned. The long slender brushwood from the shrub stands is being retained as we are planning to create some sections of dry hedging as habitat for wildlife, including hedgehogs and insects.

REQUESTING YOUR IDEAS!

The Charney Woodland Project Group (on behalf of CHAFT) would like to invite input from all villagers as to priorities, and a wish list of elements which are important to you as we move towards the re-planting of the felled area, with the objective of improving our woodland and surrounding area on the Charney fields. Are you interested in encouraging nature and biodiversity, would you like to see trees, shrubs and flowers of particular variety or colour or in general what would make the area a more enjoyable place to be.

All ideas very welcome; please do access the map of the area in question by following this link (insert link) and give us yours notes, ideas, pictures or diagrams to consider. We welcome input from children and would love to receive your wish list and/or pictures of what is important to you and how you would like the area to look.

Details about the project with links to other sites providing information and ideas can be found on the Charney website [link].

All returns to Ruth Clements please at Rectory Farm House, Main Street, by 1st May 2021.