

Sandridge Parish Council Volunteer Mornings

The volunteer group has been busy over the winter months, when many of the maintenance around the open spaces can be done when there is little foliage and without disturbing nesting birds. We have distributed our time across the parish and varied the tasks, and it is pleasing to see our volunteer group growing. We provide all the tools and expertise, and volunteers are rewarded with refreshments and homemade cakes.

Hedge-laying on Woodland Park

In November and December our efforts were concentrated on Jersey Farm Woodland Park, where our group created a beautifully laid hedge along the West and South West Plantations. Hedge-laying is a traditional country craft that has been practiced for hundreds of years to sympathetically manage hedgerows for wildlife and landscape. It involves bending and partially cutting through the stems of a line of shrubs or small trees near ground level and arching the stems without breaking them, so they can grow horizontally and be intertwined. We had up to 20 volunteers attend, and we were fortunate with the weather on both days. We will be doing more hedge-laying next winter – so if you are interested please contact Sandridge Parish Council about becoming involved.

Skyswood Maintenance

In January the volunteer group focused on general maintenance of our ancient woodland, Skyswood. We have some beautiful native bluebells under the tree canopy, but we also have a lot of brambles that have spread and risk suffocating the bluebells. So, we tackled the thorny job of clearing some of the rampant brambles before the tips of the bluebells start to emerge. We used the arisings from this work to create “green” paths through the woods, hopefully encouraging people to walk along the paths and away from the bluebells. We also created some habitat piles with hazel wood that was coppiced and planted six new hazel trees. We had some younger volunteers on this cold Sunday which was great to see.

If you would like to volunteer, please contact Rebecca Panesse, Project & Amenities Officer: facilities@sandridge-pc.gov.uk