

# NEWS

## **Bishop's Pond full from end to end and is bursting with life**

**WE may all complain about the amount of rain we have seen in the early part of this year, but it has been very welcome at Bishop's Pond, which is now full from end to end and is bursting with life.**

There are signs of frogspawn, newts, insects and new growth of plants such as Meadowsweet, Bogbean and Water Figwort. We have several established log stacks, piles of twigs and brushwood and compost heaps, all giving overwintering homes for insects and invertebrates, including ladybirds and stag beetles.

Signs of Spring are already with us - primroses, hazel catkins, the wild daffodils we planted in 2019, bluebells, lesser celandine, and many promises of growth in the wildflower bed which was started last year with teasels, primroses, foxgloves, lungwort, red campion, great mullein, ox-eye daisies and many more.

A very limited team of socially-distanced volunteers has recently completed some hazel coppicing and bramble reduction, and we are increasing the number of bird and bat boxes throughout the site.

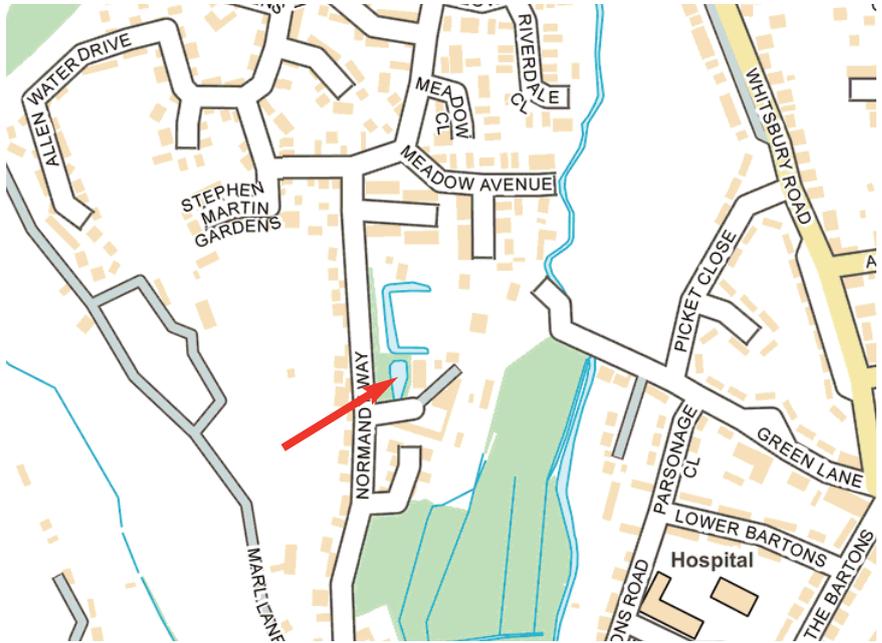
With increasing concerns about the effects of Climate Change, and the call for re-wilding our local areas, tree planting has taken on a new impetus in Fordingbridge lately; we are pleased to say that the site has benefitted from the donation of 100 native British trees from the "I Dig Trees" scheme run by the Trust for Conservation Volunteers.

Since planting them in autumn 2019/2020 we have created a mixed wildlife friendly hedge along the boundary with Normandy Way. This includes species such as hawthorn, rowan, hazel, blackthorn, dogwood, bird cherry and guelder rose, which are growing well. Our overall aim is to increase the biodiversity of the site, while maintaining the pond in its current form.

With the gradual easing of the Covid-19 health and safety requirements over the coming months, our work parties will continue 'according to government guidelines', with our next work parties scheduled for Tuesday 6th, Saturday 17th and Sunday 25th April, all from 2.00pm to 4.00pm. Visitors are welcome to look around the site on those dates.

Do visit our website- [www.fordingbridgeconservation.uk](http://www.fordingbridgeconservation.uk) and our Facebook page- Fordingbridge Conservation Volunteer Action Group- for more information.

- Susan Bennett



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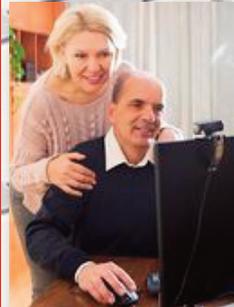
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