

NEWS

Built a 'hibernaculum'!

The Fordingbridge Conservation Group Annual General Meeting was held in September, when future plans for the pond were discussed. Some of the proposals have already been implemented - we have erected several bat boxes, kindly made and donated by the Avon Valley Shed team; tidied and thinned out the wildflower bank, removed some overhanging branches and built a 'hibernaculum'!

This is an underground refuge that various pond dwellers, including reptiles and amphibians like frogs, toads, newts, lizards and snakes use throughout the winter to protect themselves from the cold. Amphibians and reptiles are regular visitors to gardens, especially those with log piles, sunny spots, ponds, bogs and compost heaps - why not build your own hibernaculum to help them survive the winter months? All you need is a shallow pit about 50cm deep and 1.5m across, some large and small bricks or stones, logs or branches and 2 or 3 drainage pipe offcuts for access.

Other creatures that hibernate during winter in Britain include bats, hedgehogs, dormice, some butterflies and moths, and many insects, including bees. You can help them find somewhere safe to overwinter by leaving some areas in your garden 'untidy', with longer grass, and piles of twigs, logs or stones, or making a 'bug hotel' out of logs, sticks and leaves.

Our next work parties (weather permitting) are scheduled for:

November: Tuesday 1st, Saturday 12th and Sunday 20th from 2.00p to 4.00pm.

December: Tuesday 6th, Saturday 17th, from 2.00pm to 4.00pm.

Volunteer help is always welcome, just come along and bring gardening gloves and secateurs if you have them!



From small coastal haven

RINGWOOD Antiques Club were wowed by a talk at their first season's meeting by Steve Roberts entitled "Lesser Known Bournemouth".

Steve was featuring his new book, which covers the varied and unusual story of Bournemouth's growth from small coastal haven for invalids, to a thriving well loved resort.

The club learned of how its first hotel 'The Bath Hotel' became the Royal Bath, after a visit by Prince Albert early in the 1900's. How, many historical and famous people including Anthony Blunt, J.R. Tolkein, Oscar Wilde, Christian Bale and Gerald Durrell, all had connections with the town. Not forgetting Merton Russell Cotes, whose home became the Russell Cotes Museum.

There are also 26 areas of nature reserves, parks and gardens, within its boundaries.

In the early 60's Bournemouth's Gaumont Theatre hosted the Beatles pop group, who stayed in town for a whole week.

Prior to the talk, the club enjoyed a hearty supper.

Why not join us for a season of exceptional speakers including many Antiques Road Show favourites.

Next meeting is on 26th October, when Marc Allum will be requesting you to 'Bring an item'.



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