

100% success story

For the first time, we are very pleased to report that all our 26 bird boxes were used last year. Each January we go round and clean out the boxes and report any signs of activity and **all** contained nests. This was very encouraging considering we had a very late cold spell last year which continued well into the start of the nesting and breeding season. Over the years, as the old wooden boxes became uninhabitable we have been replacing them with new longer lasting woodcrete ones. Very often we have left the old box in situ which can act as a handy local food source.

Continuing on from last winter, for our first work day of the New Year we returned to lay the hedge below the Ridgeway entrance. On initial inspection, not a great deal seemed to have been achieved but the main prep work has been done, not helped by the wet weather and early fading light (not a good idea to continue when using sharp tools!). This will be continued over the next couple of months (weather again permitting), to finish the one section down to the bridge.

One of our many ongoing tasks is the management of the perimeter of the wood; cutting back unwanted vegetation and regeneration growth. As well as helping to protect this "jewel" in the heart of our community, it also helps to enhance its environmental element by letting more light penetrate the wood. To help us with this, Cardiff Conservation Volunteers joined us in January to clear the northern edge behind Ivydale, with other areas to follow.

As mentioned in last month's edition of the Link, the pond had become very overgrown so other CCV members donned waders and made a start at its clearance. By dragging and leaving the vegetation on the side of the pond it allows any trapped invertebrates to go back into the water; although this can initially look a mess it will quickly settle down.

For our work day this month, we will be doing the last woodland management work of the season, thinning out trees to allow more light into the wood and encourage greater growth. This will be on Sunday 16th March, meeting at the Hoel Cefn Onn entrance at 2.00 pm. Please have suitable wet weather gear just in case!!!!!!

ADVANCE NOTICE – Our ever popular annual Spring Walk will be taking place on Saturday 19th April. More details to follow in next month's Link and notices around the wood. Hopefully we will see more than just 1 daffodil this year.

Jonathan Singleton

Chairman – David Jones Tel : 21328572

Secretary – Jonathan Singleton Tel : 20747710

Future work days

Sunday 16th March - Meet at the Hoel Cefn Onn entrance at 2.00 pm

Woodland management – coppicing and vegetation clearance

Sunday 13th April - Meet at the Hoel Cefn Onn entrance at 2.00 pm
Litter pick and general clean up ready for our Spring Walk on 19th April

Saturday 19th April - Spring Walk
Meet at the Hoel Cefn Onn entrance at 10.30 am