



Blacknest Fields newsletter is back!

After a long gap, we're glad to reconnect with you and to relaunch our newsletter. Spring is finally here, with the promise of sunshine and flowers. This edition details three social events being organised to celebrate the arrival of Spring, and other updates, including our search to recruit more volunteer recorders. (But do 'unsubscribe' using the link below if you don't want to receive our newsletters!)



We would love you to join our forthcoming 'Spring Socials', so we can show you what's happening at the Fields:

Good Friday 3 April, 10:00-13:00, 'Easter Social'

This will be a 'lightweight' conservation work party, with a greater focus on simply enjoying being outdoors in nature than on work! Our hallmark flapjacks will be provided.

Friday 1 May, 10:00-12:00, May Day Social: 'Bringing in the May' and optional Pub Lunch

Celebrate May Day at The Fields: we plan to 'bring in the May' by gathering greenery and making Maytime flower garlands. Option to join for lunch afterwards at 'The Barn Owl'.

Mon 4 May, 06:00 start, Dawn Chorus Day Walk and Breakfast at The Fields

Birdsong peaks in early May. We'll take a circular walk from the Fields to Alice Holt 'Lodge Inclosure', before cooking up a little breakfast in our Field Shelter. No dogs. Numbers limited.

Hoping to see you! All ages welcome and (free) hot drinks provided. Please let us know if plan to join - email

bnf@binstedparishcouncil.org.uk and we will send you full joining details.



Wildlife recorders needed

Recording for this year is starting in earnest now the wildlife is stirring. We have active recording schemes for amphibians, reptiles, flora, moths, bees, butterflies, bats and birds, thanks to our existing volunteers and various external organisations. But we need extra volunteers. Email bnf@binstedparishcouncil.org.uk if you are interested in helping. We are also seeking people to set up and lead small mammal and beetle surveys, so please share this newsletter with anyone you know who may be interested in doing this.

2025 ANNUAL REPORT



2025: Bird ringing and other wildlife recording sessions identified 44 species that were new to the site, bringing our end year tally to 628

field shelter, so site visitors can now dodge showers. Full details in our [2025 Annual Report](#).



Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre's (HBIC) Recorders Forum

On 7 March, Alison gave a short presentation to HBIC's Annual Recorders forum, on the impact of the small grant kindly awarded to Blacknest Fields by HBIC last year. The grant enabled us to buy various items of wildlife recording kit. The presentation outlined how these helped our recording activities and the records we've developed.

It was inspiring to meet local recording and conservation groups and their presentations were fascinating. [Chris Packham recorded a video for the meeting](#) about Hampshire's recently-launched Local Nature Recovery Strategy. We'll definitely hope to attend again next year.

Fun fact - did you know?

Long-tailed tits build intricate nests using up to 6,000 items of moss, lichens and spider-webs, which they then line with up to 1,500 tiny down feathers. Construction takes up to three weeks, so pairs of long-tailed tits start work on the nest as early as February. The most

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the chicks hatch and grow the spider silk stretches to accommodate the growing brood. All this from a bird that weighs less than a £1 coin.



Alison Melvin

**Lead for Blacknest Fields
for Binsted Parish Council**



Sarah Womersley

**Volunteer Co-ordinator
Friends of Blacknest Fields**

p.s. Got any questions about Blacknest Fields? Email bnf@binstedparishcouncil.org.uk.

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Friends of Blacknest Fields

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