

## News from Barnfield Sandbeds May 2018

Many thanks to Samuel and Ben who have just completed their work experience with us for their Duke of Edinburgh award. We have enjoyed working with them and wish them all the best for the rest of their course. Their contribution to the work parties has been invaluable. A few extra hands and a liberal amount of muscle makes such a difference. With the expertise and help of their parents and our own members, they have been instrumental in installing two benches in the sandbeds with plans for one or two more. It's so important, especially with the stress of modern day living, to have a place where you can stop rushing around and just sit and absorb the healing that being surrounded by Nature can bring.



Unfortunately, some people spend their time in the Sandbeds throwing things into the pond – cans, bottles, huge tree branches, even the life-belt, and our time has to be spent hauling them out. I know it's a world-wide problem but I feel sad that this is what the young folk today consider entertainment. Do they really not see that someone has created an area such as this as a safe haven for wildlife and a place where they can go to enjoy watching that wildlife? Would they really prefer it to be continually littered with rubbish and not even notice that they had killed all the creatures in the pond with their thoughtless actions? The young people in the village used to call Barnfields "The Dump". Well, it is not a dump now, thanks to the hard work of all the volunteers who keep it clean and constantly find ways to improve it and, in spite of all the set-backs, we shall do our best to continue to do so.

On a more positive note, the wild flowers are looking really good now. There are a few stunning pockets of English bluebells and it is good to see such things as red champions having multiplied from last year. Do remember that it is against the Countryside law to pick wild flowers. I was so disappointed to see that something or someone had chopped off all the heads of our fritillaries.

Joyce Bradley