

Because of weather and Christmas, this was the first regular work party since October (a short mid-week work party in December was curtailed by bad weather). Two pairs of volunteers visited the nest boxes and emptied them ready for the new season, recorded signs of use from last season, marked numbers again where they had faded, and recorded positions of the boxes on the site map. In addition, metal rings were fitted to older nest boxes. A few older nest boxes are still to be done, and Richard and I plan to do that during the next couple of weeks. Detailed results will be published shortly, but occupancy of the old boxes (not the ones installed last year) had increased somewhat.

Other work included the felling of more marked sycamore in the vicinity of the wood chip pile and the use of suitable poles from this for extending path edging along the main path. Some stakes were also prepared and hammered in, but binding with wire still needs to be done. Finally, a couple of volunteers went round the east and north sides checking the condition of the whips and removing any overhanging branches.

Altogether this was a very successful work party, and we were delighted to have two new members, Ossi and Joyce. Furthermore, two other newcomers had had to back out at the last minute, but hope to come to future work parties. Thanks to all concerned.