



# The great outdoors

ABOUT 70 people met at Asham Wood, near Downhead, on a gloriously sunny Bank holiday Saturday to celebrate the beautiful ancient woodland.

This was at an event called "Wildlife and Wonder at Asham Wood", organised by the Somerset Wildlife Trust through their Mendip Wildlife Links project. It is one of a series of events they organise across the year, based in East Mendip near Frome.

There were sessions run for visitors in woodland crafts, making bird boxes and bat roosts, identifying bird calls, Tai Chi, nature discovery walks and charcoal making.

Lila Morris, the Trust's Mendip Conservation Officer said: "The day really helped the Somerset Wildlife Trust raise awareness of Asham Wood and its importance for wildlife with the many visitors. We very much appreciate the support we received from Hanson UK's Hanson in the Community Fund, Frome Town Council, the Frome Men's Shed, Alex Arthur and all our volunteers."

Visitors learnt about the trees and plants of Asham Wood, including hearing the songs of woodland birds, on the walks with professional ecologist and wildlife enthusiast Eve Tigwell, and Adel Avery from the Somerset Bat Group. Alex Arthur made a batch of charcoal from hazel coppiced in the wood, with many of the visitors cutting the wood for the oil-drum kiln.

The Frome Men's Shed, supported by Frome Town Council made 100 kits of bird boxes and bat roosts for the event. Visitors were able to assemble these during their visit to Asham Wood and take away to install at home. Pete Gulliver ran this event for the Frome

Men's Shed. He said "We would normally have used battery operated screwdrivers to make the boxes up, but we didn't want the noise to disturb the wildlife". Pete, also a member of Frome Bat Care, provided visitors with fascinating information about bats in Somerset, including the importance of East Mendip for Greater horseshoes, and where to put the bat roosts and bird boxes.

The next events that Mendip Wildlife Links are holding will be in Whatcombe Fields, on the 22nd of May and 9th of June. <http://www.somersestwildlife.org/Wildlife-Links-Events.html>

THE Mendip Wildlife Links project is working throughout East Mendip to restore habitats and engage people with the fantastic wildlife of the area. Mendip Wildlife Links is funded through an agreement between Aggregate Industries UK Limited and Somerset County Council through the Torr Works Environmental Enhancement Fund.

Somerset Wildlife Trust has been protecting vulnerable wildlife and preserving Somerset's wild places for over 50 years and, with over 18,000 members it is the largest conservation charity in the county. Alongside its members and volunteers we work year round to protect wildlife, transform landscapes and put nature back into people's lives. By working together with members and supporters they can make a difference.

The Frome Men's Shed is a registered charity, that offers a workspace where people can work on practical projects with others. They make and mend things together, work on their own projects and use their skills for the benefit of the community.

