

HELPING OUR HEDGEHOGS



Credit: Tom Marshall
(WildNET)

The Big Garden Birdwatch last January revealed only 3 out of 41 participating Tysoe households had seen a hedgehog. In the last ten years numbers have fallen by 30%, making them 'vulnerable to extinction'.

So how can we help preserve these captivating creatures?

Bonfire piles are an ideal habitat for hedgehogs so before lighting, please check for sleepy residents. When temperatures regularly drop below 10 degrees hedgehogs start to hibernate, generally from November to April. Why not make a leaf pile which they can use to hibernate? In mild winters they remain more active so continue feeding. It is vital hedgehogs have sufficient fat reserves to survive hibernation. They eat worms, beetles, caterpillars and earwigs, so having logs, compost and growing nectar rich flowers will encourage insects into gardens. Leave a shallow dish of fresh water out all year round and don't forget to ensure ponds have a way for hedgehogs and small mammals to climb out. Making a 13 cm hole in a gate or fence creates a hedgehog highway, allowing them to travel easily through gardens.

Baby hedgehogs (hoglets) born late will struggle to survive the winter, so if you see a small hedgehog contact a local rescue centre for advice. For more information and / or educational packs contact: warwickshire-wildlifetrust.org.uk/hedgehogs

Rosemary and Sue

MAKING SPACE FOR NATURE IN TYSOE

The wildflower areas in the churchyard have been mown and will now be sown with additional wildflower seeds collected from local verges. There are also plans to plant a wildlife hedge of native species along part of the churchyard boundary opposite the school. We will start feeding the birds in the churchyard once their other sources of food start to decrease.

The wildflower area in School Lane is being cleared and additional seeds will be sown in the next month or so. The Parish Council have agreed that some further (small) wildflower areas can be established in the village and this will be done in consultation with those living near to proposed sites. If anyone would like to suggest further sites to establish wildflowers, please contact the Record to let us know (details on p2).

Rosemary Collier

“For most of history, man has had to fight nature to survive. In this century he is beginning to realise that in order to survive, he must protect it.” - Jacques Cousteau, Oceanographer,

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