

Our volunteering day at Longney, Monday 8th May

As part of our informal get-together on 8th May, we're teaming up with CPRE to help with their recently launched Hedgerow Hero project. Hedges are the country's largest nature reserve and we're going to assess the health of the hedges in and around our orchards at Longney and submit our findings to their national database. It's all part of The Big Help Out.



CPRE has developed an easy-to-use, easy-to-understand, hedge assessment guide to help us; just 12 questions, many of them with simple “yes” or “no” answers. It's family-friendly and an encouragement for us all to explore nature. Each survey takes just 15 – 30 minutes to complete, depending on how much time you want to look for birds and other wildlife in the hedges.

We'll bring all the information and materials – but please bring your own pen / pencil / biro – and if you'd like to be a Hedgerow Hero for other hedges closer to your home or place of work then there's more info on how to participate below.

And we won't forget about our orchards!

Before or after being a Hedgerow Hero, we hope you'll join us in helping look after our orchards. For those of you who have attended one of our pruning courses, there are plenty more trees to prune, as well as all the prunings to tidy up, log-piles to create, trees to protect ... and the list goes on! And for those with a limited attention span there will be an Orchard Treasure Hunt (chocolate may be involved).

We also hope that you'll linger awhile afterwards. Given that Bank Holiday Mondays are always bright and sunny we're planning on getting a BBQ going, having a bite to eat, share a cider or two and enjoy the peace and beauty of our orchards. Please join us!

Arrive: 10:30

Hedgerow Hero and Orchard Help Out 10:30 to 13:00

Relaxation and Refreshment 13:00 onwards

Please note: the BBQ and Refreshment element of the day will NOT be an official Gloucestershire Orchard Trust event, just something that we hope that sensible and responsible adults will want to participate in.



If you'd like to be a Hedgerow Hero at home or at work, here's how to participate:

How Hedgelife Help Out works

1. Register on the Big Help Out App – search in the Sustainability/Env/Heritage theme 2. Find CPRE Hedgerow Help Out and book it
3. You'll receive a confirmation email
4. Shortly after CPRE will email you more details about Hedgelife Help Out - including a guide to hedgerows people might like to use and the questions (there are 12 and most are a yes/no answer)
5. Find a hedge near you! You can do this by going onto Google Earth (Google Maps and click on Satellite)
6. You don't need to be able to identify any trees, you will be asked to look at leaf shapes and count them and then spend some time listening and watching to see who else is enjoying the hedge – birds, bees, butterflies etc!
7. CPRE will send you a link to an online web form to upload your results to. You can do this live while you are at the hedge or later (take a copy of the Qs with you)
8. The webform will be open from 1-31st May and people are welcome to do 1 or many Hedgerow Help Out during that time!

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