



## Nature in Bearsted

Bearsted Parish Council are currently working with Medway Valley Countryside Partnership to make improvements to the village pond and Meadow Bank.

The aim is to improve and control the vegetation at the pond to help the wildlife flourish and to turn Meadow Bank into a nature reserve allowing more access for residents to enjoy this natural environment.

Quote from MVCP after visiting the pond in August,

*“There is a healthy suite of aquatic and riparian plants present and it seems that the low water levels are not to the detriment of the ponds’ condition from a biodiversity viewpoint. There are plenty of pond skaters on the water’s surface, several species of adult damselfly and dragonfly flying over and in the water itself there are the larvae of newt, damselfly, dragonfly and mayfly – the presence of mayfly is a real indicator that the water quality is good.*

Quote from MVCP after visiting Meadow Bank in August,

*“There is a good range of native trees on site. What is very noticeable is the encroachment of bramble across the site and so MVCP recommends the management of bramble to stop the habitat succession that is taking place. Not only would that assist with access around the site but to allow the re-establishment of meadow flora.*

*The site could also be included in national surveys such as RSPB’s Big Garden Birdwatch and the Butterfly Conservation Trust’s Big Butterfly Count. This could be with a MVCP officer and interested local residents.”*

The Parish Council would very much like to see these areas improved to boost the wildlife and provide spaces for our residents to enjoy and learn about nature.

Both of these projects will take time and be on-going. If residents are interested, you are welcome to join the team of volunteers on the workdays listed below.

08/10/2024 – Meadow Bank  
15/10/24 - Meadow Bank  
22/10/24 – Village Pond  
12/11/24 – Meadow Bank

For more information, please contact [clerk@bearstedparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@bearstedparishcouncil.gov.uk)

