



## THE SANDS POND AND SURROUNDING AREA



The end of 2024 is rapidly approaching and work at "The Sands" is presently concerned with preparations for Spring 2025!

During the past months further willow has been removed from the pond and a new reed observation screen has been installed.

Bullrushes planted two years ago flowered for the first time this year and are successfully colonizing the South East corner of the pond. The newly planted hedging along Back Lane is progressing well and further clearing of ditches/cutting back of bramble will hopefully ensure a magnificent display of snowdrops in the Spring.

The Sands wildlife area is rapidly becoming a valuable community asset. A recent independent survey remarked upon the significant increase in biodiversity at the site. Long may this continue and, please do remember, this is your area to enjoy.

Finally, if you wish to be part of the volunteer group who have worked so hard over the past years to aid wildlife development at "The Sands" please do not hesitate to contact Fred Jacques on

01522788962 or 07419134133



## SPEED INDICATION DEVICE



The Parish Council has deployed the Speed Indication Device at all village approved locations and is now well into a second phase.

We are delighted to report that the vast majority of drivers obey the speed limits, often keeping well below the 30-mph maximum, showing that they not only follow the speed limit but drive in accordance with the conditions being encountered. Unfortunately, a small minority of drivers disregard the speed limit altogether, posing a danger to other road users. The Parish Council believes these drivers are residents or live close by.

**We urge everyone to obey the speed limit and to drive in accordance with the conditions.**

## CAROLS AROUND THE CHRISTMAS TREE 2024

Sharon and Debbie are organising the annual carol singing around the village Christmas Tree from 6pm on Sunday 15th December 2024.

There will be mulled wine and mince pies to help with the singing!

(Mulled wine donated by the Parish Council—further donations of mince pies welcome)

**We hope to see you there!**



## VILLAGE HALL NEWS

We are pleased to report that the extra solar panels we have installed, the improved controls for overhead heaters and the storage battery have all helped to dramatically cut the energy costs at our village hall, whilst keeping it nice and warm.



The Hall offers lots of activities and events, and when we checked usage we discovered that hall use (footfall) has nearly doubled, from 6,000 in 2016 to 11,000 in this year.

New Year is a time for resolutions – perhaps consider joining an activity based at the hall or setting up your own club! Let's make the most of our hall!

Just one idea, we have 2 full size table tennis tables and all the associated equipment. Please contact the Parish Clerk about any idea about using the hall.

## PARKING ON FOOTPATHS

Parking on the footpath is a constant problem within the village. This causes a real problem to the elderly, youngsters and those pushing prams and pushchairs, who have little option but to walk onto the road to get past. Residents, visitors and trades people are the main culprits and are encouraged not to park on the footpaths and, thereby, help to improve the safety of all residents.

## PLAYING FIELD UPDATE

The Parish Council is looking to update some of the older play equipment on the playing field – swings etc. If you have any feedback about the play equipment or have any suggestions or ideas – we would like to hear from you!