

# 'Growing Together'

## Woodchurch in Bloom April 2021 News

### Welcome:

Welcome to our April 'Growing Together' newsletter for all Woodchurch in Bloom members

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### Quick recap on 2021 initiatives to date:

We were really pleased with the number of villagers who engaged with our 'Drop & swap' weekends recently and thank you too to all those who have got involved now in nurturing seedlings to benefit the village later in the year.

We have also been overwhelmed by the energy for our sunflower competition – over Easter, we've calculated we gave away over 1000 sunflower seeds – so looking forward to seeing very yellow gardens later in the summer!

### Village Gardening on Monday afternoons has now restarted!

With restrictions now easing, we have restarted our Monday afternoon (meet in HUB car park at 1.30pm) village gardening group. We will of course ensure we adhere to all restrictions.

We welcome villagers of all abilities and experience to join in '*Growing our village beautiful together*' and hopefully benefitting from some social gardening and encourage anyone to bring along their own flask of tea to enjoy too!

### 'Adopting a Village Planter'

We are delighted that we have so many of you that have agreed to 'adopt a planter' in the village and we would like to say a very big thank you again. Summer planting will start soon to ensure we continue to keep our village looking beautiful together. Our theme this year is wildflowers/wildlife so we are encouraging the planting of pollinator friendly plants (E.g. *Sarah Raven Top 10: Greater Knapweed, Lavender, Phacelia, Calendula, Foxgloves, Cosmos, Cornflower, Wallflowers, Scabious and Dahlias*) as well as promoting being 'wise with water' as widely as possible across the village.

Our success has led to more and more planters being added around the village so keep a look out as you walk or drive around the village!

If you are interested in 'adopting' a planter/planted area in the Village, please let us know via our contact details below.

### HOPE:

It was third time lucky on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> April for the start of the creation of 'HOPE', our permanent pebble butterfly, next to the Memorial Hall in Woodchurch.

After poor weather and tightening of restrictions putting a halt to the work last autumn & winter, it was worth the wait on Friday with the sun shining as 4 of us started to lay the pebbles into the cement base.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Chris Woodcock, who has supported us with the building of our permanent structure and everyone else that have helped with donations.

We now hope to finish the creation of HOPE, our butterfly in the next few weeks, after which we will look forward to welcoming villagers to visit and enjoy this special collective memory.

## What's next in 2021:

### May:

- **Wildflower meadow** – Cornfield seeds have now been sown in two areas of the meadow to add biodiversity and colour. On the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> May between 3 and 4pm, we hope villagers will come along and help us plant out wildflower seedlings in a designated area on the Green extension.

*Please see further details below*

### July:

- **Front Garden competition** – Please refer to our February 2021 Newsletter for full details. Entry forms can be found via Woodchurch HUB website: [Front Garden Competition - Woodchurch Hub](#) or hard copies can be found outside the HUB building.

### August:

- **Sunflower competition** - Help fill the village with **Sunflowers!**



Taking the lead from Woodchurch Surgery Sunflower competition, Woodchurch in Bloom invite villagers to fill the village with sunshine and grow as many sunflowers as possible!

There will be a vote on the largest sunflower face, the funniest sunflower face and the tallest plant over the August Bank Holiday weekend.

**Please join in and bring sunshine to our village** 

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## Rewilding the meadow

**Sat 1, Sun 2 & Mon 3 May**

**3.00 – 4.00 pm (additional times can be arranged)**

**The Green extension (wildflower meadow)**



**Could you spare an hour or so and bring your 'bubble'?**



**Come along and plant wildflower seedlings in the meadow – seedlings and equipment provided!**

**Thank you to all the volunteers who have been growing a mixture of perennial wildflower seedlings over the winter – they are now ready to plant out!**

**Growing our village beautiful TOGETHER**

**#BeeTheChange**

COVID-19 restrictions apply

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## May Gardening Tip:

This month's tip is about hedges. By definition, a hedgerow is a hedge of more than 20m in length, or one that adjoins another to make a combined length of 20 m. So, below 20 m no need to worry, but many properties in the village probably, technically, are bounded by hedgerows rather than hedges. Why does this matter, well according to DEFRA 2020 rules to protect nesting birds, hedgerows may not be cut between 1<sup>st</sup> March and 1<sup>st</sup> September. One imagines there is a certain amount of give and take here for essential trimming for pavements and gateways. Nevertheless, it is important in May to protect nests and fledgling birds and to be especially careful.

Finally, what a pity all our Magnolia trees have had their magnificent floral displays devastated by the continuing frosty nights.



*Chris Stafford*

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## Getting in Touch:

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