



Mk 1 version



Before and After

Great Spotted Woodpecker and squirrels are well known for vandalising nest boxes, but we thought we were being clever by fixing metal plates to the entrance of all our boxes - little did we know, the woodpecker was one step ahead of us (as shown in photo on left). The metal plates worked as they should, the woodpeckers just went around the side!!!

None of the boxes in the Meadow had been attacked during the breeding season when young chicks would have been easy prey. The damage was all done between November and December. Could this be a sign that the woodpeckers are struggling to find suitable trees in which to excavate holes for roosting and nesting due to the number of trees that have been felled within Down Grange?

The Meadow has 10 boxes with different entrance hole sizes, these have now been checked and replaced with the new reinforced version. All boxes except one had been successfully used by Great Tit and Blue Tit.

The four boxes in the Orchard fared better for woodpecker damage, only one showed any sign of being attacked, so as a precaution all boxes have also been armour plated. All the boxes were used, in one there was an infertile egg and in another a dead chick.



Mk 2 armour plated version



Steve Goodwin and Sue Hiley attended a workshop for the identification of Terrestrial Heteroptera (True Bugs) run by the British Entomological and Natural History Society at Dinton Pastures.

The use of a brushcutter to control the bramble considerably reduces the amount of back-breaking labour required to remove the bramble by hand.



Barry wielding the brushcutter and Steve clearing the arisings.

Work Parties for February to April 2015

Date	Meeting Point
Sunday 8 th February	Old Orchard. Kendal Gardens
Thursday 19 th February	The Old Hedgerow. Footpath between Coniston Road & Down Grange, behind 77-155 Coniston Road.
Sunday 1 st March	Down Grange Meadow Homestead Road interpretation board
Thursday 12 th March	Old Orchard. Kendal Gardens
Sunday 22 nd March	The Old Hedgerow. Footpath between Coniston Road & Down Grange, behind 77-155 Coniston Road.
Thursday 9 th April	Down Grange Meadow Homestead Road interpretation board
Sunday 19 th April	Old Orchard. Kendal Gardens

Times: - Sunday's 10:00 - 13:00. Thursday's 14:00 – 16:00.

If you would like to join us for the first time please ring Marion on 470171.

Please bring work gloves, tools are provided.

Contact us:- By e-mail on kempshott-conserve@tiscali.co.uk or via the website www.kempshotconservationgroup.org.uk. For anything that requires urgent action, such as fallen trees on any of our sites please contact Marion Wolstencroft on 470171