

Healthy Hedgerows

It must be 3 winters since Colin Johnson and Ed Rispin laid the hedge on the north side of the allotments (see photo). Since then, it has grown and thickened just as expected from the procedure which ensures that hedges remain a stock-proof barrier. The additional values are that the hedge thrives to continue soaking up carbon dioxide from the air - locking it away in its stems and roots, and to continue providing a habitat for many plants and animals. This winter Colin has been similarly addressing the hedge on the southern side. (see photo).

Healthy hedges are also wildlife corridors enabling safe passage for them move from area to area to find food, mates or migrate longer distances. It was this value which in part led to the planting of a hedge along the northern side of the Hayricks amenity area, along with improving in time the visual aspect of this boundary. Many were involved in its planting in Autumn 2021: Stoborough School, Trees for Dorset, Sustainable Wareham, Planet Purbeck and local residents. Since then, others have replaced dead specimens, watered it during the dry spells of 2022 and 2023, and this winter have been removing plant competition from around and inside the protective tubes. (see photo). Alongside benefitting the hedge and wildlife, the light is now allowed in to help those with allotments close to it.

The next boundary to tackle is that alongside the Corfe Road which is much in need of renovation and replacement. It is hoped that those in the parish might offer help in the many practical tasks that ensure hedges remain in healthy condition. In particular, if anyone wished to learn the art of hedge laying there may be grants available to help train you.

Any offers of help or interest please contact the Parish Clerk at arneparishcouncil@gmail.com

Cllr Ian Duckworth