

“We cannot protect something we do not love, we cannot love what we do not know, and we cannot know what we do not see. And touch. And hear.” – Richard Louv



Wild flower meadows with their burgeoning sense of life and natural endeavour are gone. Not completely gone, but from a practical perspective they have been lost. Lost from the landscape but lost also from our collective consciousness since few now will ever now experience one at first hand.

Who has walked through a rising cloud of meadow brown butterflies or listened to the sound of grasshoppers animating the yellow rattle? Flower rich pasture exists in the lived experience of those in the twilight of their lives but not in that of the young. Nor is it known to the majority of those who make policy, set agendas and generally turn the cogs of our world. It is this hidden sense of loss and hopelessness that Hogchester is determined to challenge. In this small way we are part of the climate emergency – trying to ensure that as much of life as possible has a chance to adapt to the coming storm.

In the past few years we have seeded three wild flower meadows using a range of approaches and in 2019 we have made a way to open these meadows to the public from 15th June to 15th July. This year there are approximately one million ox-eye daisies in our fields gracing the hills overlooking Charmouth and the views are spectacular. We are grateful to Heritage lottery who have funded a beautiful bridge to join up the meadows with the recognized Site of Nature Conservation Interest (SNCI) at Hogchester and other essential infrastructure.

In future, we hope to support efforts to duplicate these meadows by supplying seed and expertise to those who might consider hosting a wildflower meadow themselves. We hope to support the establishment of new meadows that would otherwise not exist. We also have long-term plans to establish a community growing project, including a community orchard, on the Hogchester field adjacent to the Charmouth Cemetery.

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