

## Sarah's Meadow Volunteers in action!

Sarah's Meadow is Milton's nature conservation area south of the High Street\*\*. On a grey morning in January, ten Sarah's Meadow Volunteers (SMV) hacked and hauled, constructed and considered, planted and planned on Sarah's Meadow. All ages from 18 to 81!

Following advice from Wild Oxfordshire in the five year Management Plan we;

- cleared a good portion of Simmonds Brook of unhelpful undergrowth to allow in more light for the benefit of the wildlife beginning to return to this stream and the nearby ponds
- used some of this undergrowth to create “dead hedges” around the main pond as safe perches for smaller birds visiting the pond and its margins
- created two hibernacula as refuges for reptiles and amphibians
- planted wildflower bulbs



We thoroughly enjoyed being in the beautiful environment of Sarah's Meadow and doing something really practical for two or three hours in the stimulating company of like-minded people. And learning from each other...

Our volunteers get excited when we regularly see or hear new species of wildlife appearing – eg the ten new species of birds including a Little Egret, and various warblers and waders. And all the other new creatures that have appeared since we began work there a couple of years ago.

We have further activities planned for Sarah's Meadow throughout the year including counting butterflies, building bat boxes and beetle banks, and planting more wild flowers. (Plus some routine maintenance, of course!)

## **Like to join Sarah's Meadow Volunteers and be a part of this exciting project?**

More details from

Graham Smith, **Chair of Milton Parish Council**

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Or **Milton Biodiversity Monitoring and Action Group (BMAG)**

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**\*\*** Sarah's Meadow belongs to Milton Parish Council. It's Milton's nature conservation area south of the High Street.

Find Sarah's Meadow by going to Wildbourne Close; then go through the gate and down the path towards the kissing gate near Simmonds Brook. It's the large field on the left after this gate.