

Environment News

Scything in the Cathedral Meadow

The Biodiversity Team had a training session in the grounds of Ely Cathedral on how to scythe from Richard Brown, WildScythe (<https://wildscythe.co.uk/>).

They will be using their newfound skills to manage the grassland in the Dean's Paddock which will help promote a flower rich, biodiverse grassland. This process is an efficient method of grass cutting and it also helps to protect the wildlife that lives in the Dean's Paddock.



Carbon 360 Survey We'd Love Your Input

The Environment Group would value your views as part of the Church of England's Carbon 360 programme, which helps churches and cathedrals take stock of current practice and areas for improvement around environmental sustainability.

As part of our Carbon 360 work, we are gathering feedback to give us a basic snapshot and your insight is appreciated. Please take a few minutes to complete the short staff survey below. Volunteers and visitors are also being invited to take part via a separate survey.

[CLICK HERE](#)

It only takes a moment to take part — there are just three multiple-choice questions to answer. We'd be very grateful if you could share your views. Please complete the survey by the end of June.

World Bee Day - 20 May

On 20th May each year World Bee Day is celebrated to raise awareness of the importance of bees as pollinators. In the UK, as well as one species of honeybee, there are 24 different bumblebees, and more than 250 solitary bees.

This year the Biodiversity Team has been taking part in the BeeWalk run by the Bumblebee Conservation Trust (<https://beewalk.org.uk/>). BeeWalkers across the country sign up and commit to a monthly walk along a fixed route, gathering abundance and distribution data which is fed back to the Trust. The data collected from this citizen science project helps monitor how bumblebee populations are reacting to climate change and changes in land use.

Armed with nets and pots, once a month, the team follows a route that starts in the Almonry Garden, heads onto the East Lawn, goes down Oyster Lane, and finishes up in the Dean's Paddock. By trapping bumblebees in the net and transferring them into a pot they can be examined closely, and, with the aid of an identification chart, the species and caste (queen, worker, male) is determined and recorded, then the bees are released.

This June, in addition to the monthly BeeWalk, the Biodiversity Team are joining forces with the Learning Department and holding a Discovery Morning: Bumblebees, to share their passion for these industrious insects. Why not come along and join in?