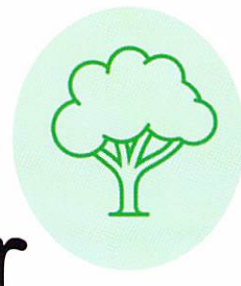


# Houndwood Community Group

## Newsletter

April 2022



For full details of all our events - look out for the posters on the noticeboards and on our Website or Facebook page.

### In This Issue:

- \* Save the dates!
- \* Grants update
- \* Kid's corner
- \* Bird box audit
- \* Gardening update
- \* HCG activities

### Houndwood JustGiving™

The Houndwood Community Group is funded via sponsorship/ grants, stalls at events and by kind donations from residents.

There may be projects in the future, if agreed with our members, that will require resources. So fundraising will be required. If you wish to help us, you can, by donating via Just Giving. [www.houndwoodcommunity.org/Fund-Raising/](http://www.houndwoodcommunity.org/Fund-Raising/)

### Save the dates!

#### Houndwood Community Group AGM & Open Meeting

Wed 27th April 2022

at 7:30pm

If you want to join the meeting please register online at

[www.houndwoodcommunity.org/Committee/AGM/](http://www.houndwoodcommunity.org/Committee/AGM/)  
~ for the residents of the Houndwood / Icon Estate only



### Grants update



**We bid for a couple of grants from Mendip District Council**

**to support our community and ecology activities ...and we got them both!**

**Ecology Group**  
Climate and Ecology  
Emergency Fund :  
£1,108.00

We have many bird and bat boxes around the estate but some are in a poor state. We will repair and replace these, adding

hedgehog boxes and also video cameras and bat detectors so that we can see how they are being used. We also have bug studying and pond dipping equipment on the list.

We want to run a series of activities where you and your family can help us do this and learn as we go. To get involved contact us at [ecology@houndwoodcommunity.org](mailto:ecology@houndwoodcommunity.org)



**Gardening Group**  
Community Fund Small  
Grants : £1,713.00

We can now support the work of our Community Gardening team, buying compost to improve the soil in the planters, a new greenhouse, and also trolleys and tools to make life easier. The gardening team work wonders around the estate. To get involved contact us at [gardening@houndwoodcommunity.org](mailto:gardening@houndwoodcommunity.org).



(Answers from the quiz in the last issue.)

## Kid's corner

For the children & the 'kids at heart' on the estate!



How many Lime Trees are there in Lime Tree Square?



### Where am I?



I'm a **Tawny Owl Box** on an Ash Tree just opposite the wildlife pond.



I'm a **bird box** found in the willow trees just before Cranhill car park.



I'm a **New Zealand Flax**, you can find me by the big tree at the end of Oberon.



### How many...?

There are **25** planters just like me around the estate. Did you find all of them?

### What do we have in common?



The answer is **BATS!** One is a bat box ~ for bats to roost (sleep) in, the other is a bat detector ~ this helps us find bats and identify their species.

## Bird box audit



On Sunday 27th February, in beautiful sunshine, a number of residents got together to audit the bird boxes around the estate.

Most were taken down, cleaned out and put back up. The birds now have some lovely clean boxes to nest in, as well as the choice of a lot more nesting sites courtesy of some new boxes put up too! In all there are now around 16 at various places, so keep an eye out and let us know if you notice any being used.

We now realise that we should be doing this at the end of the breeding season so the next bird box clean will be in September/October this year, we will let you know nearer the time so you can come along and help.

As a community group we want to protect and generate space to encourage more wildlife. Share your thoughts with us at [ecology@houndwoodcommunity.org](mailto:ecology@houndwoodcommunity.org)



## Gardening group update

While the gardeners themselves were having a quieter time over the winter, all the bulbs and spring flowers were getting ready to bloom in many places around the estate.

As the weather warms up we will be busy working on all the

raised beds, initially weeding and pruning. We will then plant out cuttings, which have been overwintered in the poor old community greenhouse which has hardly survived the storms! Thanks to the wonderful community grant



from Mendip we will shortly be replacing the greenhouse, buying a large quantity of compost to top up some of the raised beds and then hopefully filling them with colourful plants grown from seeds saved from last year's

plants. We have also got some new trolleys to help with transporting water containers, sacks of compost and tools. If you would like to join us, we would love to see you, please contact us via [gardening@houndwoodcommunity.org](mailto:gardening@houndwoodcommunity.org)

## Houndwood community group activities

### Spooktacular Halloween



Thank you to all of you who came to our spooktacular creepy cavern and pumpkin game at Halloween!

Over 520 people visited the Creepy Cavern and we saw some impressive costumes, with witches, monsters and even 'Squid Game' characters making an appearance. Several of you showed off your

throwing skills in the bean bag pumpkin toss game with more than a few competitive Dads getting involved. We saw a record number of entries in the pumpkin competition, with our resident judges Sarah and Steve torn for choice. From carved scary faces to witches' cats, thank you to all of you for creating such a fantastic display.

### Summer Fete



Plans are very much under way for this year's summer fete. This is a favourite in the Houndwood calendar, for many. With hook a duck, sack racing, a colossal climbing wall and the paddock bar, to name just a few of the attractions, it is always a fun event to be a part of. There is nothing more entertaining than

watching the sibling rivalry on the coconut shy & we are looking forward to more antics this year!

With the summer fete so close to the **Queen's jubilee**, we aren't organising jubilee celebrations, however we are currently considering planting a tree to mark the occasion.

Will you be arranging a street party? Post your pics on the Houndwood Community Group on

