

NEWS FROM THE SPRINGHEAD TRUST



As some of you have not been able to visit Springhead recently, we thought you might be interested in knowing what we have been doing.

We were delighted to welcome schools back with over 400 children visiting. Some chose to come for day trips rather than residential visits due to concerns over Covid, but with long days often ending around a campfire, children still had the full Springhead experience. Schools tell us that one of the main reasons they choose Springhead is that it helps them achieve curriculum-related learning outcomes, through activities ranging from creative writing to arts and crafts and forest school activities.

Visitors to open gardens and other events, volunteers, and community groups are among those who have been able to enjoy the gardens. 2021 saw the launch of an exciting new archaeology project, which has involved local people and amateur archaeologists in digging test pits and processing finds including Mesolithic flint blades and iron age pottery. New members have joined our regular Wednesday 'Garden Gang', which looks after the ornamental gardens, and we have started a new 'Winter Wednesdays' group that is focussing on the North orchard. Fresh produce grown at Springhead has helped to supply a Shaftesbury food charity and community scheme.

One of our key objectives is to conserve and enhance our buildings and 15 acres of grounds. Alongside the regular maintenance and improvement works, one of this year's challenges has been to deal with urgent repairs needed to the mill building, the hub of our activities. With grants from funders, and generous support from the local community, Springhead's tiled roof has now been replaced and associated works carried out to loft windows, gutters and drainage

The Springhead Trust was set up by a pioneer ecologist, and Springhead has grown and developed as a centre for sustainability. With fewer visitors, there have been more opportunities to address environmental improvements.



- A range of biodiversity surveys have been carried out to find out about the species at Springhead, such as the Privet Hawk-moth, and help us manage the environment appropriately
- A survey of birds, carried out by a local ornithologist, revealed nearly 70 species which benefit from the varied habitats
- Our Productive Gardens Co-ordinator has developed sustainable gardening techniques such as gathering weed from the lake and turning it into compost for the gardens.

We do hope to be able to welcome visitors back to Springhead soon. If you would like to join our mailing list please email me at friends@springheadtrust.org.uk

Kate Partridge, Friends of Springhead