

Press Release

Wakehurst Place Team Visit Hailsham Country Park

Officials from Wakehurst Place (Kew) and Weald Meadows visited Hailsham Country Park on Tuesday August 18th to undertake observation and analysis of the recently re-established wild flower meadow

The visit follows the recent completion of the first phase of the wildflower meadow restoration project carried out by the Town Council's Hailsham In Bloom committee throughout the past year, where over 6kg of wildflower seeds were planted in the meadow after extensive ground preparation work by Town Council staff.

Representatives that met with town councilor Bryan Burchmore and local naturalist Janet Simes on site included Wakehurst Place's Ian Parkinson (Horticultural Officer), Kate Hardwick (Restoration Ecologist) and Dr Peter Toorop (Millennium Seed Bank Biologist). Dawn Brickwood, representing High Weald Meadows was also present to offer advice.

Soil samples were collected for analysis from the areas of the park that are under discussion for the creation and restoration of additional wildflower areas, adding to the successful seed growing that has been undertaken during the summer of this year.

Cllr Jeff Bentley-Astor, Deputy Town Mayor and Chairman of the Hailsham In Bloom committee, said:

"We have been fortunate in having the support and advice of botanical scientists from the Wakehurst Place to guide us in our wildflower meadow restoration project so far. On their first visit, they approved of our cleared and seeded patches where we have planted English grown seeds of wildflowers and grasses for clay soils and suggested suitable mowing regimes to enhance the production of fertile seeds throughout the next year."

"My sincere thanks extend to both the Wakehurst Place team for visiting the Hailsham Country again last month to collect the soil samples, and to Weald Meadows for their valuable input and advice as well."

Cllr Bryan Burchmore, chairman of the Town Council's Environment & Leisure committee, said: "Wakehurst Place will monitor the project with us, so that we can learn from each other and exchange ideas and recommendations. The Hailsham Country Park is an important and valued park and we must ensure that any ideas and recommendations put forward by such experts are taken forward. "

"I'd also like to take this opportunity to commend the initiative of the Hailsham In Bloom committee for their efforts in restoring the wild flower meadow over the past twelve months."

Fellow committee member and local naturalist Janet Simes, said: "We are grateful for the excellent advice given by the Wakehurst Place team and Weald Meadows. They have simplified our plans to something sensible and manageable, and as long as we have sunshine and rain when needed, the results will be amazing!"

<ends>

For all enquiries relating to this press release, contact:

Terry Hall
Public Information Officer
Hailsham Town Council
Inglenook
Market Street
Hailsham
East Sussex, BN27 2AE

Tel: (01323) 841702 | Email: terry-hall@hailsham-tc.gov.uk