

Mid Kent Downs e-Bulletin

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Issue 2

A quarterly information service published by the Mid Kent Downs Countryside Partnership, specifically aimed at those working within the project area to enhance the landscape and carry out countryside conservation work.

The Mid
Kent Downs
Countryside Partnership



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Latest News

People Dig Ponds

Ever thought of digging a pond? Whilst the Mid Kent Downs may not be as famous for its ponds as it is for its chalk grassland and ancient woodland, there is a rich history of ponds across the downs, both natural and as part of the farmed landscape. This project aims to address the loss of ponds in the project area by actively promoting pond construction and allocating funds to new ponds through the Mid Kent Downs Landowner Partnership Projects. People Dig Ponds is only a working title at the moment so if anybody has a better idea for the name please let us know.



Boxley Warren Task Day (13th December)

Boxley Warren got its name because of the box trees that were once plentiful on the slopes surrounding the village. Very few now survive so several years ago, box shrubs were propagated from a local source and planted back in Boxley Warren. To help the indigenous flora thrive into the future we will be having a practical task on Sunday, 13th December between 10am and 1pm to remove the scrub growing up between the box trees. All are welcome. Please contact us here at MKDCP if you are interested in attending.

Calling All Budding Photographers

Would you like to get exposure for a particular site or a great view in your local area? If so, why not send us your favourite photos. Here at Mid Kent Downs, we are busy creating a Conservation Calendar which will feature views from across the project area coupled with advice relevant to the particular featured month. This will be a permanent resource and a major element of our soon to be launched website. There are also plans to produce hard copies too. The best photos we are sent will feature in the calendar so get snapping and please send any pictures to midkentdowns@kentdowns.org.uk



Kent BAP's Creating Areas for Nature Resource Pack

The Kent Biodiversity Action Plan team have developed a resource pack for people looking to create and enhance natural areas. There is great online advice giving help on subjects ranging from tool use, habitat creation and creating structures as well as one of the very best links pages currently available. To access these resources go to the [Kent BAP resource area](#).

Traditional Orchard Inventory

The People's Trust for Endangered Species (PTES) has put together an inventory of traditional orchards which is now available from Natural England if you have a GIS software package. It will also be available on www.magic.gov.uk from December 2nd onwards. However, they need help 'ground-truthing', that is, going out and confirming that all old orchards are on the map and in the right places! Please contact us here at Mid Kent Downs if you are interested in helping out with this part of the project.

Grants Update

The latest news concerning grants which local groups can apply for to fund their projects. If you would like to discuss funding for a project please contact the Mid Kent Downs Countryside Partnership team on 01303 815170 or midkentdowns@kentdowns.org.uk

Mid Kent Downs Landowner Partnership Projects

Funding of up to £1500 will be issued to groups to improve biodiversity, community involvement and landscape enhancement. Mid Kent Downs Countryside Partnership will contribute up to 50% of overall costs for projects within the Mid Kent Downs. If you would like more information or to discuss your project contact the Mid Kent Downs Countryside Partnership on 01303 815170 or midkentdowns@kentdowns.org.uk. Contributions of over £1500 will be considered in exceptional cases. As you will have noticed from the latest news section, we are particularly keen to hear from anybody who is looking to construct a pond as a substantial percentage of the grant has been set aside specifically for pond creation.

LEADER+

Kent Downs and Marshes Leader programme can offer grants of up to £50,000 to cover the costs of rural diversification and regeneration. Matched funding will often be needed but there are a number of areas that are eligible for funding including:

- Village renewal
- Basic village services
- Farm diversification
- Forestry and agricultural economic development
- Micro Businesses
- Tourism

For more information go to the [Kent Downs and Marshes Leader](#) webpages.

Bovril's Great Outdoors Revival

Bovril will award prizes to small projects that look to improve the outdoor places. This can be anything from repairing fences to planting trees to tidying up a derelict area. You must nominate the project and then get people to visit the website and vote. The most popular ideas will receive a share of £100,000. For more information go to the [Bovril's Great Outdoors Revival](#) website.

MOREwoods

An exciting new project from the Woodland Trust could be the answer you are looking for if you want to plant a new woodland or at least one hectare of trees. The scheme does not specify levels of funding available but states that if you have matched funding it will be looked upon favourably. The promise is of a simple application process with minimal bureaucracy so to find out more visit the [MOREwoods webpages](#) or call 0845 2935689.

The Phillips Fund

This grant as featured in the last bulletin but the maximum grant has now been increased to £2000. Grants with no matched funding requirements are available for groups to protect, conserve and enhance the use and character of the rural landscape and its communities. This grant is very easy to apply for and currently undersubscribed. However, the fund is heavily biased towards projects that involve planting and will not fund contractors. For more information contact the grants team at Kent Community Foundation on 01303 814500 or admin@kentcf.org.uk

Additional Sources of Help

For more information about external funding and to use Kent County Council's online grant finding software visit open4community.info/kent

Kent County Council also produces the excellent 'Inside Track' which is a fortnightly funding update newsletter. To download the latest copy go to the [External Funding webpages](#)

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