



**oakbank**  
CREATING THE PERFECT HABITAT

## OAKBANK E-NEWS JUNE 2024

### HENRY BARRINGER

Many of you will have heard the dreadful news that our friend and colleague Henry Barringer passed away on the 13th May following a brief, brave and brutal battle with a brain tumour. Henry joined us from Savills in September 2022 to manage our stewardship and conservation division and he rapidly became a popular and productive member of the Oakbank team. Henry was held in incredibly high regard by all of his clients and hundreds of clients, colleagues and friends gathered together at Norfolk Bluebell Wood Burial Park on 30th May for his funeral.

We are all devastated at his loss, but our loss is nothing compared to that of his family and especially his wife, Becca and young son, Eddie. If anyone has memories, recollections, anecdotes about Henry that they would like us to pass on to his family please do send them in.



# STEWARDSHIP REMINDERS

## ELS JUNE

### **NECTAR FLOWER MIXTURE (EF4)**

between mid-June and the end of the first week of July you should cut half of the area of each nectar flower plot down to 20cm to stimulate late flowering. DO NOT CUT IF GROUND NESTING BIRDS ARE PRESENT.

### **PERMANENT GRASSLAND WITH LOW INPUTS (EK2)**

from 1st June can be cut, harrowed and rolled. If cut, the cuttings MUST be removed.

### **VERY LOW INPUT GRASS (EK3)**

CANNOT be touched until 1st July.

## MID-TIER CS

### **WINTER BIRD FOOD (AB9)**

plots should be drilled by 15th June.



## NECTAR FLOWER MIX (AB1)

it is recommended to rotationally cut 50% of each plot between 15th May and 15th June to stimulate later flowering. Again, avoid cutting if ground nesting birds are using the plot.

## LEGUME & HERB-RICH SWARDS (GS4)

please remember that you must exclude livestock and not cut for a five week period between May 1st and July 31st to allow the legumes & herbs to flower.

## SFI

Hopefully everyone has seen details of the new, expanded SFI offer, to be launched later this summer? If not then you will find it here: [SFI scheme information: expanded offer for 2024 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/sfi-scheme-information-expanded-offer-for-2024)

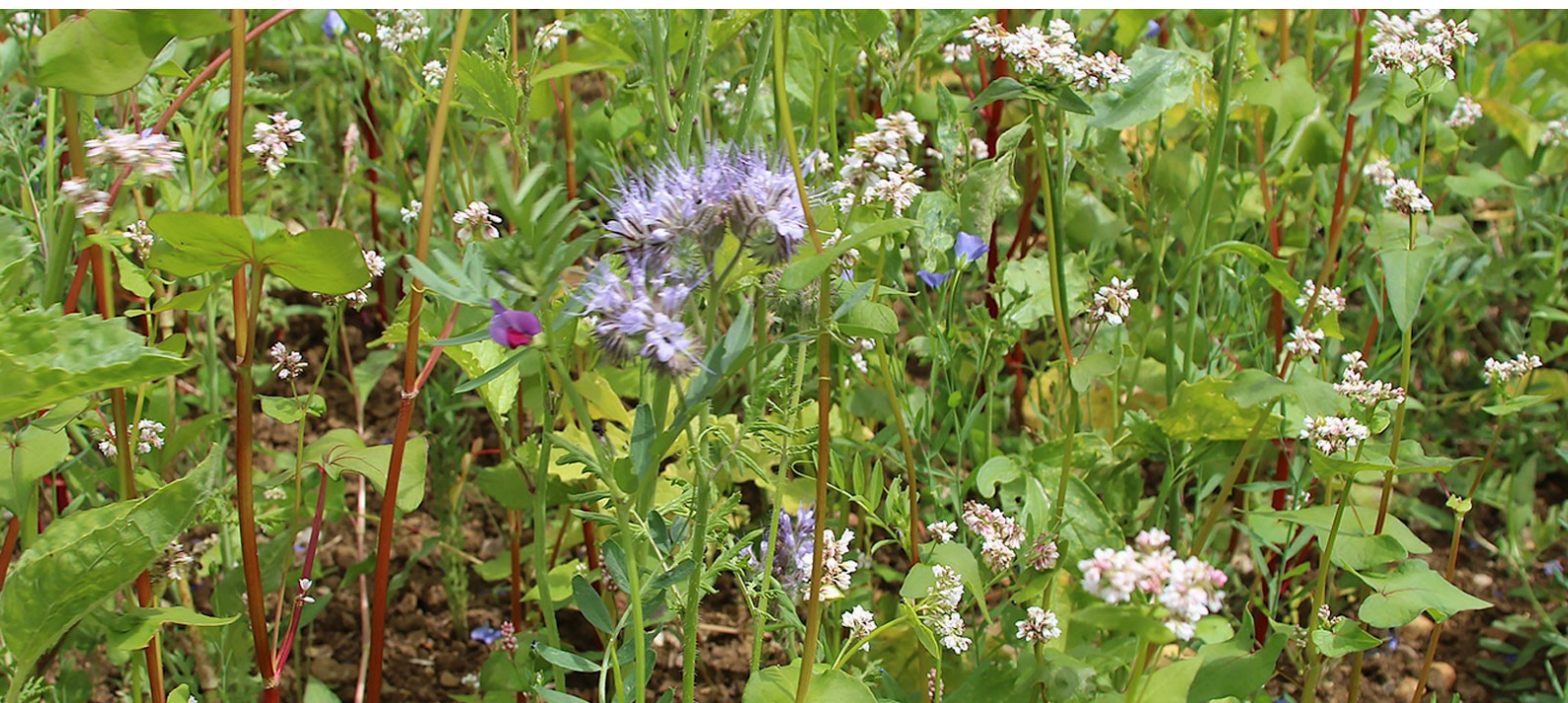
## TEMPORARY ADJUSTMENTS TO AGRI-ENVIRONMENT AGREEMENTS DUE TO WET WEATHER

Please see the link below to understand what flexibility has been brought in for certain options, whether temporary changes to existing management rules or widening of the window for establishment. These will be reviewed at the end of July.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/wet-weather-temporary-support-for-farmers-in-2024>

## SLUGS

The conditions over the past few weeks have been perfect for slugs and we are seeing a huge amount of slug damage. Please ensure you monitor closely and apply slug pellets at the first signs of slug activity or, on particularly slug prone soils, apply them as a matter of course.



# COVER CROPS

Although most farmers have managed to get a crop in most of their fields, it is clear that there is some land that has either been too wet to plant, or the crop has succumbed to the conditions, weeds, etc. Please talk to us about what to do with this land, as leaving it as bare fallow is only likely to create even less favourable conditions for the next planting season. Oakbank have a really good track record of supplying cover crop mixes that meet growers requirements, targeting the outcomes that are being sought and doing this at a cost-effective manner. We have a small range of utility mixes, but we are well known for crafting mixes that are specific to a situation or goal.

Please contact us as soon as possible about summer and post-harvest mixes as availability of some species and varieties is likely to become short.

# TREES & WOODLAND

## **ANOTHER WOODLAND PEST FOUND IN EAST ANGLIA**

All woodland owners and managers across the country are being asked to be extra vigilant for signs of the larger eight-toothed European spruce bark beetle (*Ips typographus*). The warning comes after the Forestry Commission confirmed eradication measures are being undertaken for [Ips in East Anglia](#). If you spot anything suspicious please report it to [TreeAlert](#).

## **ITS TICK TIME AGAIN**

A seasonal reminder to check for ticks and remove them promptly to minimise the risk of disease. Although Lyme disease is the most prevalent disease in UK ticks, tick-borne encephalitis virus (TBEV) is an emerging, though currently very small, risk. Lyme Disease Action has information on [their website](#) as does the [UK Health Security Agency](#).

## SUMMER SHOWS

Please come and see us at the following shows this summer:

**Groundswell** – 26th - 27th June

**Norfolk Show** – 26th - 27th June

**Gransden Show** – 28th September

## GWCT SHOOT WALK

The Cambridgeshire shoot walk takes place on the evening of Wednesday 19th June at Green Drove Farm, Thorney, courtesy of the Sly family. The shoot walk will show how a wild fen pheasant shoot can prosper within in a highly commercial arable farming operation.

To reserve a place please go to:

<https://www.gwct.org.uk/events/calendar/2024/june/cambridgeshire-shoot-walk-2024/>

## BEDS FARMERS RUGBY

Returns for a second year, where they will take on Ampthill Extras, with many of the Oakbank team involved. Raising money for Keech Hospice, £5 entry, a raffle and an auction. Prizes include a signed Northampton Saints Shirt and a Deer Stalk with our very own Ryan Peach. Bedford Ladies Tug of War Team will be doing a BBQ. Bar open at 19:00 on 7th June, Kick of 20:00 at Bedford Athletic Rugby Club, MK41 8QA. Live music to follow the game.

## AND WE FINISH ON SOME HAPPY NEWS.....

Dan Small our Woodland Consultant and his wife Sara became the proud parents to Laurence born at 5.10am on 1st June

Congratulations to them both and we wish them all the best.

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