

# Hope Bagot Autumn 2020 Newsletter



*A garden in Hope Bagot*

## Autumn in Hope Bagot

This Autumn has seen exceptionally beautiful colours – reminding us that nature has been a saviour for many people throughout this Covid crisis.



Interestingly Shropshire Council launched a tree scheme earlier in the Autumn, providing residents with native trees and shrubs, the scheme was fully subscribed within a couple of hours.



Meanwhile if any Hope Bagot residents have an area of land where they would be happy to accept the planting of a small coppice or spinney we are sure that we could raise the money and volunteers to plant it. Please contact [hopebagot@gmail.com](mailto:hopebagot@gmail.com).

.....and for those who don't believe in faeries then who created this fairy ring found on Halloween hmmm..?

and is it fairy or faery??



## Time for making cider

As you know Jim is keen on his (hic) cider and he decided to make an apple press during the lockdown – give him his due it's pretty good but there's a car driving around with no jack in the boot now. Rosie and Jim were so excited when the apples began to ripen up and have begun to make cider (although Rosie just prefers the apple juice).



If anyone would like the plans for Jim's press please email [hopebagot@gmail.com](mailto:hopebagot@gmail.com).

## More on stiles

Since the article on stiles in the summer edition we have collected quite a list of stiles around Hope Bagot and Whitton that are in need of a bit of TLC (see photos). While, legally, the maintenance of stiles is the responsibility of the landowner arrangements can be agreed whereby volunteers carry out the maintenance work. So, potentially, there's plenty of work for volunteers this coming winter. Even Jim has offered to help (he's proved that he's pretty good at DIY) so we'll show progress in future editions.



Meanwhile an apology to one of our farmer residents who felt that the previous article was unfair to farmers and, of course, we must stress that many farmers do great work and co-operate in maintaining footpaths and stiles to ensure access to the countryside for all.

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## Hope Court Lake

The lake at Hope Court, which is fed by a small brook, has become silted up over the years so contractors were brought in recently to remove most of the silt and improve the lake bed. Apparently the lake contains about four million litres of water so is an important part of the management of the drainage of the surrounding hills. The brook that flows out of Hope Court lake is known as

Stoke Brook and is joined by Colly Brook before making its way through Whitton and Stoke to join Ledwyche Brook and hence flow into the Teme. Otter tracks have been seen in both Stoke Brook and Colly Brook which the contractor felt may account for the low number of fish in Hope Court lake (or maybe it's the heron).



*Before (L) and after (R)*



## Motocross events

A letter on behalf of Hope Bagot Parish Meeting, Nash and Boraston Parish Council and a number of concerned Whitton residents has been sent to Shropshire Council expressing deep concern over the motocross events that were held over two weekends this summer.

A response is now awaited from Shropshire Council and we will keep residents informed.

## Village Hall Trustees Annual Meeting



Hope Bagot Village Hall trustees held their annual meeting recently and while the hall was able to benefit from government support it was felt that the regulatory and insurance restrictions associated with opening the hall remain too arduous so, reluctantly, a decision was made to keep the hall closed for the time being.

Unfortunately insuring a hall that is not being used is more expensive than one that is being used! It was agreed at the meeting that some maintenance work is required (delayed due to the lockdown) - particularly to the porch and the barge boards - watch this space for progress reports.

## Hope Bagot Conversation Area

Rosie and Jim often speak to passers-by when they are out gardening and there have been so many more people are out walking since this 'orrible virus. So Rosie and Jim recently set up a conversation area while they were harvesting their pumpkins. It's not true that Jim needed a new head but after all that cider Rosie's not so sure. So Hope Bagot boasts both a conservation area and a conversation area (and that's not easy to say!).



Don't forget that Jim is our investigative reporter so if you see anything of interest let him know at [hopebagot@gmail.com](mailto:hopebagot@gmail.com).

