

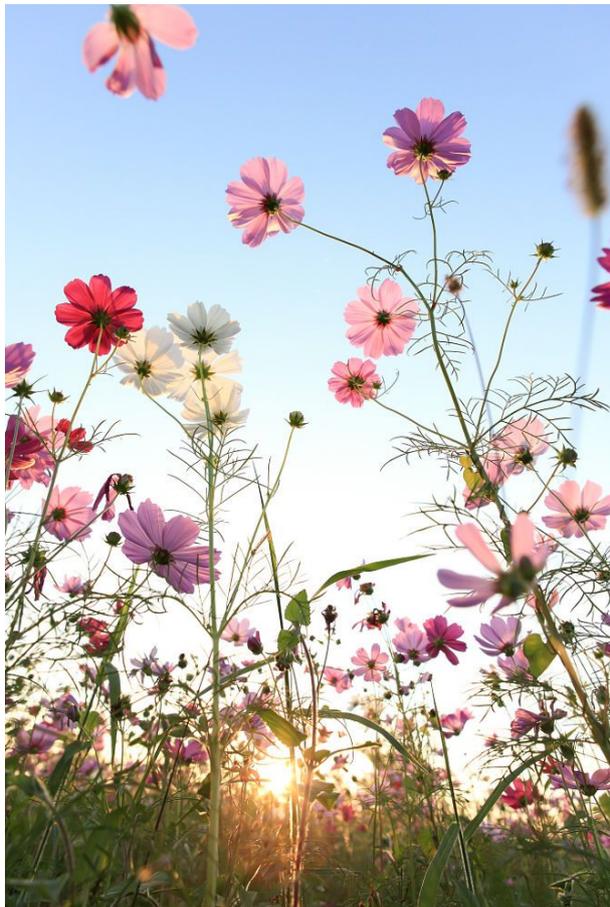
Titchfield News

October '17

Wild Flower Meadow comes to Titchfield

It seems that your regular team of workers keeping the churchyard looking at its best, have attracted the attentions not just of villagers and others passing by, but also of our Council's horticultural management. Having seen the efforts that we have been putting in, they are wanting to give us something in return. So it is that we are to get our own wildflower meadow, or at least a hundred square metres of one.

We in Titchfield are, it seems, to be the Borough's Guinea Pigs for a new product. Much easier and more reliable than sowing wildflower seeds, we now have wildflower turf. This, our men at the Council tell me, is now a better way of doing it. Just like laying turf, but it's a 50:50 mix of wild flowers and grass.



The project started in the middle of September with the marking out of an S-shaped swathe of land and then to applying something to inhibit the grass growing there. Once the grass has died the soil will be rotavated to a depth of four inches to prepare it for what is to come. Those initial actions might have caused dismay in some quarters, but it should all be worth it. Once the ground has been prepared, the Wildflower Turf, a layer which will be not much more than an inch thick, will be put on top. As the months go by it will slowly bed down and by the time the spring comes, our mini-meadow will begin to show its character. Then, as spring turns into summer then slowly autumn approaches different flowers will come into bloom fade and be succeeded by others. Were that not enough, there will be year to year variation, depending upon temperature and rainfall.

Everybody has a chance to get involved though. Come along on at 11am on Thursday 26th October to see the finishing touches being put on the meadow and then hear Matt Wakefield, one of our Men at the Council, give a short talk about what we can expect to see next spring.

If you would like to get further involved come along in your gardening togs and be prepared to dig. We are being given a large bag of native daffodil bulbs, not the flashy "Parks Department" varieties but the small delicate varieties that would at one time have been much more commonly seen than they are today. I don't know how big the bag will be but Matt is thinking of the event going on until about 1pm. The more hands we have the more fun it will be and the more quickly it will all be done. Do please come along, with your garden trowel and gloves at the ready.

Tim Mason

01 329 844 426

tim.mason@port.ac.uk