

Happy New Year to all our Enews subscribers. Here's hoping that 2022 sees an end to the pandemic and a renewed enthusiasm for living. And an improvement in the England Test Cricket performances!

Stewardship reminders

ELS JANUARY – hedge and ditch bank cutting continues as does ditch cleaning. **EF23 (supplementary feeding in winter for farmland birds)** – food must be spread on the ground at designated sites at least once a week from 1st January. This is in addition to any hopper feeding. Don't forget to keep your 'feeding diary' up-to-date in case of inspection.

Mid-Tier Countryside Stewardship – AB1 (nectar flower mix) – if you haven't done so already you have until 30th March to cut your nectar flower plots. Lots of customers don't have the facility to cut and remove. If that is you then the best advice is to wait until a dry, frosty day and cut very steadily with a flail mower (not a rotary) as this will smash the woody material and is less likely to leave a carpet of mulch.

BE3 (management of hedgerows) – if you have gone for the one in two rather than one in three year cutting option then you can now cut half of your hedgerows up until 28th February.



Winter Feeding – even if you don't have EF23/HF24 or AB12 options under your ELS/HLS or Mid/Higher tier stewardship agreements, we would urge everyone to undertake some winter feeding for our declining farmland bird species. Whilst feeding wheat is better than nothing, some smaller seeds such as rape, linseed and millet would be far more beneficial for many of our passerines.

**AB12 Supplementary Feeding starts December 1st
Have you ordered your Small Seed Mix?**



Tel: 01480 890686 Email: info@oakbankgc.co.uk

New (2022) Mid-Tier Agreements - we are aware that a number of clients have yet to receive their CS offers for this year. If that includes you then please contact the office asap.

GWCT Big Farmland Bird Count: 4th-20th February (<https://www.bfbc.org.uk>)

Please get counting! The more counts the GWCT receives the more they can do with the data. It's also a great opportunity to see for yourself the wildlife that relies on your help through the winter.

Woodland & Trees

Adding value to your young woodlands

Now is the ideal time of year to add value to your young woodlands, by pruning. Pruning young trees has several long-term advantages, and ultimately produces better 'final crop trees' for increased commercial returns. See our guidance note [HERE](#) for more information.

SPRING NEWSLETTER We will be sending out our spring newsletter and product guide in February. If any of your address details have changed since last year, please contact the office to ensure your details are updated and you receive your copy.