



### **The beauty of a Dead Hedge!**

A nifty way to put woody prunings to good use, offer more instant wildlife cover than a newly planted conventional hedge, create habitat for insects and beetles as well as a rich feeding ground for small mammals such as hedgehogs.

Here are two local stories that may just inspire you to do the same ...

#### **Kate's story ...**

“About ten years ago we spent some time with the community at Canon Frome Court, and learnt from a couple who were living there that the woody brush cut from hedges and overgrowth in the garden can be put to good use as a ‘Dead Hedge’.



At that stage our garden in Hereford was small so we didn't use this advice until we moved out to Common Hill. If you walk from Fiveways down towards Rudge End / Haugh Wood the footpath takes you across the edge of our garden, and you'll pass one of our 3 established dead hedges.

We originally built the dead hedge by putting in place a run of 4ft posts about 2ft away from the existing fencing. Since then, over the past 6 years we have continued to add to the ‘hedge’ as needed. So, at times in the seasons as you walk by you will see green recently cut material at the top of the pile, and at other times only deadwood: everything very gradually sinks down, as it does with any composting process, but very much more slowly so the ‘hedge’ remains established.



The advantages of the dead hedge are many: it keeps woody / slow to compost materials out of our main compost; it creates a barrier that is a bit of a deterrent for deer and muntjac to cross; it creates

a safe and undisturbed natural habitat for wildlife; it means we don't use an incinerator; and it means we don't have to make trips to the tip with a car full of brush.

So, lots of savings, and plenty of local benefits too. Come and have a look if you're interested... “

### **Dorothy's story ...**

“My journey regarding Dead Hedge started having watched two BBC programmes in November and March with Colin Stafford-Johnson. You may well be familiar with his voice if nothing else as he is a long-term lover of nature and made many programmes. He lives in Ireland and decided to renovate some land that his family had owned and set about rewilding it. This great programme really inspired me to set about making a Dead Hedge.

For me it was about not wanting to keep taking pruned materials, broken or rotten bits of trees etc to the recycling centre or burning any of it unless big enough (and seasoned enough) to use in our Clearview stove.

The bonus seems to me to be that lots of little creatures might find homes, food and sanctuary. It would also mean less use of fuel to get to tip etc. It has to be a win win.

Anyway, I decided to run a part of the lower garden with about 30 feet in length and about 30 inches wide dead hedge following the recent loss to the gales of a huge conifer and my precious damson trees giving me some space. A double line of Chestnut poles will be banged into the ground and the space will be gradually filled with wood we cannot burn, hedge trimmings, pruning material etc etc with plenty of different sizes of 'holes' here and there for, hopefully, hedgehogs, birds and creepy crawlies.

We shall see what happens!”

More carbon reducing actions and information can be found on The Great Collaboration website: <https://greatcollaboration.uk>. If you haven't logged in and chosen your actions yet, grab a cup of coffee and log on today!

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