

New homes for our feathered friends



On a recent Autumnal afternoon Francisca, Ron, Tess the dog and I met up in the wooded area near to Longsands to put up the 10 new bird boxes. We had the ladder (borrowed from an obliging neighbour), we had the hammer and nails and a wheelbarrow full of the boxes. Fortified by the knowledge that we were covered by the group's insurance policy, we set to work.

Firstly, we had to decide who would do what, depending on our talents. So, I decided I would hold the ladder steady. Ron volunteered to climb the thing, as he had read the instructions on the side and thought he was up to it.

Francisca was happy nailing the numbers to the boxes in numerical order and, being a woman, could multi-task by also taking photos of our progress on her tablet.



Next, we had to find a suitable tree, and eventually, nine others. "Look, there's one" said Ron, excitedly, pointing at a tree, and he was right. The Priory Park Three moved in closer, and Ron, being the ladder-man, managed to rest it against the side at a safe angle in accordance with the instructions. "Well done!" we said, admiringly.



I took on the responsibility of getting some nails from the imitation Tupperware container, picked up the hammer and the first prepared bird box, and looked around for Ron who had suddenly disappeared. To my surprise, he was already several rungs up and looking quite professional in his yellow hi-viz top. I handed up the box and the nails and the hammer and took my place at the foot of the ladder as I'd seen others do in the past.



Ron, having lined the box up in a suitably vertical position against the tree proceeded to bang away. Sensibly he did the top hole first (no fool, Ron) and then the bottom. He then stepped back to admire his work.

And so, dear reader, the ten boxes are now in place. Look for them if you will, and admire our handy-work. With luck the little tits and the big tits will have already made their homes inside and are enthusiastically starting families right now... Disgusting!



PRIORY PARK FRIENDS

Nick Tracken
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