

## NEST BOX LOG

### November 2023 – Six Nests Still in Use

We examined the nest boxes again at the end of 2023 we found a similar pattern to 2021.

- Two of the three sparrow nests had been used, but the third was empty
- The robin nest has still not been occupied
- Sadly there was a very small, but feathered, dead chick in the great tit box – we couldn't identify it – see photo
- The owl box had just twigs for bedding, with some grit – it seems different species have used it each year
- One of the new tit boxes in the wild area had moss bedding, but no down or other signs of occupation.



Contents of box 2 after removal, showing plenty of signs of use



*Box 4 before cleaning out; on top was a small dead chick*

### Summary of the findings so far:

Box	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Location	Hall wall	T36 (T35)	T48 (G4)	T50 (T46)	T48 (G4)	T28 (T27)	T29
Type	3* sparrow	Great tit	Robin	Blue tit	Owl	Tit	Tit
<b>2021</b>	All used - moss, one had three blue tit eggs, photos	Used - moss	Not used, moved from T50	Used - moss	Deep layer leaves & twigs, fragments of white egg ~40*30	-	-
<b>2022</b>	All used - moss & down, one had dead chick, photo	Used - moss & down	Not used	Used - moss & dead grass, photos	Deep layer yew leaves & twigs, photo	Not used	Not used, trace of moss in one corner
<b>2023</b>	1 & 2 used - moss & down	Used - moss & down, photo	Not used	Used - moss & down, dead chick, photo	Twigs & grit; creamy white hatched egg ~30*20mm	Moss	Not used

Note – the tree numbers sare those of the tree survey done in early 2023; the numbers in brackets are the old numbers shown in Management Plans up to 2022.

## NEST BOX LOG

### November 2022 – Six Nests Again

boxes used last year were used again, mostly with deep beds of moss, but we found no remains of eggshells.

- Sadly there was a dead chick (blue tit or great tit) in the nest that previously had infertile eggs.
- The raptor box had a deep layer of yew leaves with a few twigs, so that may have had a different occupier.
- The robin box and the new boxes were all unused, but we decided to leave them largely where they were to see if birds would come to them once the boxes had matured a bit.



Three used nests in box 1, but a dead chick



Dead grass mixed with the moss  
in box 4



Yew leaves and twigs in box 5

## NEST BOX LOG

### October 2021 – Six Nests in our Nest Boxes!

When we examined and cleaned out the boxes in October 2021, we found to our great surprise and delight that every box but one had been used! We had not heard any reports of bird activity in and around the boxes, showing how secretive the birds had been. It is difficult for us to be sure which species of birds have been active, but several looked like blue tit nests, packed with moss. One nest, one of the three “sparrow boxes” on the outside of the church hall, had three very small eggs, presumably infertile, with blue tit colouring. The large raptor box, situated in the copse, had a deep layer of leaves and small twigs and fragments of a large white egg 30-40 mm diameter.



Nest box 3 in its new location

The one failure was the open fronted box designed to attract robins. We think it was too close to a busy public footpath, so we have moved it into the copse, which is much more secluded.

We were very encouraged by the high usage during the first year – evidence of the wild life sharing our beautiful churchyard and responding positively to our small steps to assist.

We erected a couple more boxes before the next season, in the ‘Wild Area’ of the Churchyard.



## NEST BOX LOG

### November 2020 – Nest Boxes Installed

We placed five nesting boxes in various places around the churchyard. We followed advice about height above ground and direction the openings should face. We hung them on wire protected by hose to avoid damage to trees. The boxes are numbered so we can record how they are used. Thanks to Brian Robson for help in making the boxes.



Nest box 1 – for sparrows – on Church Hall wall



Nest box 2 – for great tits



Nest box 4 – for blue tits



Nest box 5 – for tawny owls