

Live in Headington? Your Garden Can Help the Lye Valley Rare Wetland!

- The Lye Valley rare fen wetland is fed by spring-water that originates as rain falling in Headington in green areas and gardens.
- Rain enters the soil, goes through porous limestone underground and comes out in the fen springs (months later) to keep all the fen rare flowers and insects happily wet.
- The fen springs are not getting enough water due to hard-surfacing (roads, houses) stopping rain entering soil.
- This is worse because Climate Change is making hotter and drier summers; there is less rain as droughts become commoner.
- Water from your roof/paving MAY go to a soakaway (excellent!). If not, it may connect to a big surface drain pipe which (after a storm) pours into Lye Brook and gives flash-flooding, scouring the bottom of the brook, eroding the fen, and causing flooding to properties down in Cowley Marsh.
- If you don't have a soakaway, you could help get more rainwater into the soil and underground rocks by interrupting your roof downpipe to collect water into a **water butt** and then use this to water your garden. This means more water for the fen springs ... every little bit helps.
- This would also mean less water goes to the destructive road drain which spews storm water into Lye Brook, causing a flash-flood, damaging the fen, and flooding homes down in Cowley Marsh.
- Please consider alternatives to concrete/tarmac areas of your front or back garden or using plastic grass – all these stop rain naturally entering the soil and feeding water to the fen springs. Limestone gravel will allow rain into the ground – provided it doesn't have a weed-proof and waterproof underlay.

By Friends of Lye Valley (FoLV)2022. See <http://www.friendsoflyevalley.org.uk/>