

# The results are in: Buritons' Nature & Environmental Survey

These are important times for helping nature and caring for the planet - and the survey circulated with the last parish magazine was designed to find out what's happening right here in this parish, collecting ideas that can be shared more widely.

## **Many thanks to everyone who took part!**

The survey was quite broad brush and focused on individual actions - rather than what governments, schools or businesses are doing.

It asked people which of a number of actions they had already done and which they planned to do in 2025-26.

The results demonstrated the widespread adoption of many actions and it's encouraging to see how much is happening!

Whilst the sample group who filled in the survey can't be taken as representative of the whole community, they provide a revealing snapshot of things that people are doing.

There was a good spread of locations of respondents, including from every road in the village and also elsewhere in the parish. The age profile of the sample leant towards older age groups: 50% of respondents were over 65, 30% were between 50-65 and 20% were less than 50.

Many of those who filled in the survey appear to be leading from the front in taking action on climate and nature, and hopefully having a positive impact on encouraging their friends and neighbours to follow suit.

Unsurprisingly, simple actions are the most widely adopted — like changing some of our consumer habits or making our gardens more wildlife friendly. But there are also more ambitious steps like buying an electric vehicle or installing solar panels or a heat pump.

Looking ahead over the next couple of years there are plenty more changes people are thinking about. On average, people said they are planning to take three additional steps over the next couple of years - with some aiming to do many more.

What has been learnt?

## **Helping wildlife in our gardens**

### **Virtually all households have:**

- pollinator-friendly flowers from spring to autumn
- climbing plants on trellis, walls or fences
- leave seed heads and berries through winter.

### **Most people appreciate the importance of:**

- native trees and flowers which our wildlife can use
- providing a bird bath and bird boxes
- not removing hedges or replacing them with fences
- not using pesticides or weedkillers
- only using peat-free compost
- having an untidy area or dead wood pile in the garden.

### **The survey also showed that many households don't yet:**

- provide ways for hedgehogs to move in and out of their gardens
- clean bird feeders regularly
- have a pond or sunken container, however small.

There is still a reluctance to allow even a small amount of grass to grow long for a few months to help wildflowers and pollinators, with only 6 out of 10 people doing this. But a number have said that they will start to do so.

And there were also pledges to start using water butts; to reduce pesticides and weedkillers; and to provide bird feeders and bat boxes.

### **Climate-friendly actions at home**

Over 90% of respondents said that they were already taking simple energy-saving steps at home with others aiming to do more of these things in the near future.

#### **Most people are also:**

- doing more repairing, re-using and recycling
- reducing food waste
- improving insulation and draught-proofing
- switching things off at the plug.

#### **Other popular actions included:**

- shopping more sustainably
- buying local seasonal produce
- reducing car-use by sharing, walking or cycling more
- changing to green energy providers.

About a third of respondents had already had one of Buriton's Thermal Camera Surveys at home, with another 15% saying that they would do this in 2025-26.

People are also thinking about plane flights, too. Almost a third are flying less than pre-pandemic and another 15% are aiming to take fewer flights in the future.

About a quarter of respondents have already installed solar panels and some have got battery storage systems and/or heat pumps.

### **The Buriton Environmental Association (BEA)**

The group of volunteers aims to help others with ideas to support nature and climate-friendly actions.

Survey responses identified barriers being faced in some households and the BEA group is likely to continue to try to help find solutions and share good ideas.

The group works closely with the Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust, the County Council and the National Park Authority.

BEA events are listed in the Parish Magazine and on the Community Website with signposts to other good sources, too, such as the new 'My Home Made Better' initiative: **[www.myhomemadebetter.org](http://www.myhomemadebetter.org)**

For further information, or to join in the group's activities, please email: **[buritonbea@gmail.com](mailto:buritonbea@gmail.com)**