

## let's get buzzing in Buriton



Buriton is one of six parishes in Hampshire chosen for an important wildlife project.

Experts explain that it is not just big animals like elephants, rhinos and tigers that are under threat: lots of insect species are also declining – and many of these small creatures are vital to our lives.

Bees, butterflies, moths and beetles are vital for crops and fruit – with estimates suggesting that over a third of the food that we eat depends on these unsung little pollinators.

But lots of these are now struggling because of the loss of habitats and use of pesticides. Numbers of some species have fallen by 80 per cent.

We can all help a little bit in our gardens – and some ideas were included in the last Magazine. Everyone can use the winter months to plan gardens for next year. And please use the 'Buriton Pollinators' Facebook and Instagram sites to share ideas, show pictures and learn from others.

Perhaps some of the following examples from villagers will give you inspiration ...

### **From Mary and Bernie in Bones Lane**

If you walk down Bones Lane you may have noticed a change on the verge alongside No 57. In 2020 we removed an old, 12-foot wide Leylandii hedge and replaced it with a native yew hedge.

Once it was gone, we laid some wild flower turf which gave a lovely display of colour in the summer and brought more pollinators to the garden. After watching Sussex Wildlife Trust's Michael Blencowe talk about his wildflower lawn, we then also removed two sections of our rear lawn and threw wildflower seeds over it.

We thought the pigeons had eaten all the seeds because nothing grew for months, then a host of poppies, cornflowers, clover and other flowers suddenly appeared.

We believe there were many more butterflies and bees in the garden this year because of the extra wild flowers. We have vowed, from now on, to only bring pollinator-friendly plants into our garden.

And we would recommend anyone to watch Michael Blencowe – he's so easy and fun to listen to and very inspiring. He's part of this event on YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pZVgeMI9sJA>. He starts at about 1hr 10 minutes – talking for about 10 minutes (some other parts of the event are very interesting, too).

### **From David and Ros in Glebe Road**

After living here for about four years we'd made most of our garden manageable and then felt that we'd remove some horrible brambles and make room for wildflowers.

We've got inspiration and ideas from some of the TV Garden Makeover programmes, particularly Alan Titchmarsh. We jot down some of the plant names and have then bought packets of seeds. We've sown grass seed first and when we're confident that's all growing we plan to create some small spaces, sprinkle in the seeds and lightly cover them with soil. We've got Oxeye daisies and some mixed wildflower seeds.

It's a bit of 'trial and error' for us. If we get any colour in the first year, that will feel like a success. Having removed the brambles and got grass growing we already feel that we've achieved something. And people passing by are often interested and supportive of our work.

We've read the parish magazine pages about pollinators, got some of our ideas from there and decided that we'd have a go! It's very enjoyable – although we know that it may take some time – and we're always happy to welcome ideas from others.

### **From Martin and Di in Bones Lane**

We've continued with our wildlife gardening projects and the most effective this year have been:

- Letting a large part of our front lawn grow into a wild flower meadow, with primroses, scabious and even orchids, and some lovely grasses. We mow round the edges so that it doesn't just look a mess. It's mown flat every autumn and kept as normal lawn until about March.
- Our badly weeded onion and carrot bed has again erupted into a marvellous display of poppies.
- The Ivy on our bathroom wall has flowered marvellously and the bees, wasps, flies and butterflies have loved it in the autumn – and the berries are a bonus for birds later on.

We've had quite a few butterflies: Red Admiral and Peacock on our Buddleja; Gatekeeper and Meadow Brown on the Scabious and Knapweed; Large and Small Whites on the cabbages etc, and Holly Blue. Our small pond has also attracted a lot this year. We had several dragonflies flying and laying their eggs: Broadbody Chaser, an Emperor, Red Darter, etc and last year's nymphs are still in the pond. We have also had Water Boatmen and Pond Skaters. We try to gradually help wildlife a bit more each year.

### **From Ken near the village pond**

On one of the boundaries to my home some sections of fence had got the rot and rather than renew them I have replaced them with a "dead hedge".

This has many advantages over a fence:

- it's more in keeping with the surroundings of this village
- it's much more wildlife-friendly providing ready supplies of nesting materials and nest sites etc
- it's a wonderful home to a large variety of creatures, many of them being pollinators
- it recycles garden waste locally
- it forms a natural support structure for new vegetation. In my case I am encouraging rambling roses, pyracantha and bramble (all very good for pollinators) to spread over the dead hedge from an adjacent living part of the hedge.

There are some short videos on creating dead hedges on YouTube – or I could explain my method. Once established the material gradually rots down and sinks under gravity and, as it does, you simply introduce new season's cuttings/prunings into the top. You might also want to pull out any unwanted vegetation, such as bind weed. But, generally, the beauty of a dead hedge is that it is dead: and therefore extremely low maintenance – as well as all the other benefits mentioned above.

### **From Fran's bee-friendly garden at The Five Bells**

The ivy to the front of the building has been humming with bees, flies and wasps this year – and still is in the sunshine. Letting the brambles run wilder this year produced a fantastic crop of blackberries and provided some extra flowers. We have had visits from hornets and humming bird moths, dragon and damselflies – all of which seem to like the front of the building. We have become good at reviving bumble bees with some sugary water refreshments and a leafy sunbed recovery spot. Letting the allotment bed go to seed produced lovely celery and leek flowers and attracted even more flying pollinator heroes. Although horseflies can be a bit unpleasant, apparently it's only the females who like to feast on blood: the males prefer sweet nectar and are crucial pollinators. We have seen a few hedgehogs during the summer but not as many as usual. Hopefully, if we all show more respect for our hedgerows through the Pollinator Project, that may improve. Going into autumn we are very pleased with our rambling hedges and seedy plants, and feel sure that the insects, birds and wild animals are too. We are leaving various piles of wood and natural shelter to help wildlife through winter.

### From Hannah and family in Heatherfield

Although initially it was just myself who took an interest, the children have been driving the work in our garden to support and encourage pollinators.

With the help of their grandad, they made some butterfly hotels and bird boxes; we also bought some of Ken's bug hotels at the village show and as a family had great fun putting in a small, but perfectly formed, pond.

Going forward, we aim to take our reduced mowing one step further by planting some wildflower seeds

It has been lovely to work as a family and discover just how many things we could easily achieve, without having to spend a lot of money.



### From Maggie and Ian at Tithe House

Around 20 years ago we decided to create a wild flower meadow on a 6 acre field.

We also started rearing sheep to supply ourselves with meat (with a known diet and lifestyle) and had horses. So a need for home grown hay was important to the welfare of our animals.

We chose a mix of flowers and grasses that could live side by side. In modern hay fields single grass species are strong and dominant and so wild flowers will not survive.

Over the years we've enjoyed watching the meadow establish itself and have rarely intervened. Now we regularly have cowslips, oxeye daisies, birdsfoot trefoil, yarrow, meadow buttercup, clovers, knapweed, common vetch and sorrel along with the grasses.

We originally had yellow rattle but found this was pushing our 'gentle' grasses out and so we pulled it all out and cut back the knapweed. No artificial weed killers or fertilisers have been anywhere near!

Each year we have a differing balance of flowers, and we always look forward to seeing how things turn out. We see lots of butterflies and bees but have never done any sort of survey. So, next year this is going to be done! Paths will also be cut through the field so as we can invite interested people to come and see what can be

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The Candle Cavern is a local business established to promote and develop natural candles made from sustainable and renewable sources thus reducing our dependency on crude oil.

All the candles made are, currently, from Beeswax, Soya Wax or Rapeseed Wax and are uncoloured for a cleaner burning experience. Any scents are added by using and blending pure Essential Oils giving added therapeutic benefits.

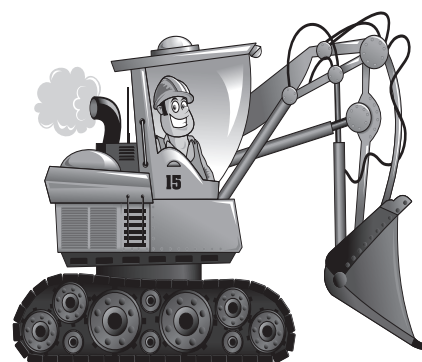
Also available are candlemaking supplies, candlemaking kits and general accessories including oil/wax burners & beeswax polish. In addition, a new and exciting vegetable based lamp oil developed to burn cleanly and a wonderful alternative to paraffin!

For those budding candle makers in and around the area, I have an introduction course held at the workshop – a day course to teach the basics of candlemaking using natural waxes. Alternatively pick up a kit and try at home! Full details are on the website.

The workshop is open weekdays 9am – 2pm and Saturday mornings 10am – 1pm other times may vary. Please feel free to come and have a look around and/or discuss any requirements you may have.

Unit 8/8a, Buriton Business Park, Mapledurham Lane, Petersfield, Hants GU32 3NJ

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