

let's get buzzing in Buriton



Successful bids to the South Downs National Park can help wildlife in the parish.

It is increasingly being realised that nature is under pressure and needs help.

Bees, butterflies, beetles and other bugs play vital roles by pollinating plants that bring us so many everyday things – from fruit and vegetables, to raw materials, essential oils and also fibres for making clothes.

But, in recent years, these species have been suffering. Many are in decline and need our help more than ever.

The South Downs National Park Authority has, therefore, commenced new projects to help wildlife and identify potential land that could contribute to nature recovery – and Buriton has made two successful bids to develop ideas here.

In recent years the Parish Council has been working with Hampshire County Council as one of six 'pilot' places in the county, trying to improve conditions for pollinators – and it's been great to see that many people are taking part by making small changes in their gardens.

From household gardens to commercial farmland, everyone can play a part in creating new wildflower corridors to help pollinators to thrive.

And now the South Downs National Park Trust, the official charity for the National Park, has agreed to help the community develop

ideas further with advice from experts at Plantlife as part of a wider "Bee-Lines" initiative.

The National Park has also launched a "Re-Naturing" campaign, to increase the amount of land which is managed for nature, and this Parish Council bid is leading to discussions which can bring specialist advice and help to find funding if required.

Initially ideas are likely to focus on the wild margins of the recreation ground – but with the potential to extend elsewhere and to include education and awareness-raising, too.

Being so close to the school there are opportunities for learning and enjoyment for all the children and the project should enable everyone to appreciate the wider benefits that managing land for pollinators and biodiversity can bring: "Helping Nature to Help Us!"

Members of Buriton's Pollinator Group are delighted with this latest recognition of steps being taken in the community. They explain that everyone can play a part in creating networks for nature to make the parish an even better place for nature and for people.

Please contact Petra Norris, Parish Clerk, if you would like more information so as to be able to help with these ideas in any way:

07943 536065

or buritonparishcouncil@hotmail.co.uk



Climate Change

Saving money, saving energy, saving the planet ...Buriton's innovative use of a new thermal imaging camera has been featured in local newspapers recently.

The parish council bought the handy equipment with support from the county council – and it's now available for use throughout the parish.

Buriton's Climate Care Group (BCCG) uses the camera to help householders cut spiralling energy bills and combat climate change.

A number of surveys were carried out in the spring: producing pictures showing where homes were losing heat through gaps in doors and windows or through walls with poor insulation.

The Climate Care Group is aware that many people are worried about big energy price rises – but explains that there are some fairly simple, relatively low-cost things that can be done to reduce energy bills for those who know where to look.

Group members explain that whilst the thermal imaging project can't pay peoples energy bills for them, it can help identify where homes are literally leaking money.

Reactions from households who were quick to book early surveys included:

- the survey was very helpful and located a couple of areas that I can address
- our house had been improved fairly recently and so the results were reassuring. But it looks as though an increase in loft insulation would be beneficial

- the survey showed a big difference between windows that were only single-glazed and others that were double-glazed. We'll try to do something about that as soon as we can
- it's interesting how much heat might leak out from our front door
- Michael walked carefully around our house in the cold and dark and I now know that we are doing much to heat the whole of Buriton! But we also now know what and where we should do to reduce heat loss! This is a really good initiative.

The surveys can only be done when it is cold outside, so more are now being planned for when the weather turns colder in the autumn. There's a small charge of £15 to create a fund for replacement batteries etc.

If you would like your house to be surveyed, get on the list now so you can be among the first to benefit later this year.

More volunteers are also being sought: to be trained in the use of the simple camera so that more surveys can be done in the future.

Any parishioner interested in helping or in having a survey done should contact parish clerk Petra Norris on 0794353605 or email buritonparishcouncil@hotmail.co.uk