

let's get buzzing in Buriton



Helping 'Nature Recovery' in Buriton

The community's help for pollinators is being recognised as an important part of the County Council's 'Nature Recovery Network', as well as receiving advice and support from the South Downs National Park Authority.

The County Council arranged a meeting in Buriton Village Hall in October – with representatives attending from villages across the county.

All the communities described their work so far and ideas for the future; and a number of people from Buriton joined in.

Hampshire County Council is responding to parliament's latest Environment Act (2021) and is recognising that small nature reserves alone are not enough to help wildlife survive. Too often wildlife has been forced into fewer and smaller pockets of wild space, surrounded by new developments or intensive agriculture.

They also explained that many creatures play vital roles for human life on earth – and getting the balance wrong could have devastating effects.

They are now aiming to create connected spaces across the landscape - in villages, towns and cities, on farmland, and in natural places - to give wildlife a chance to recover and adapt to pressures like climate change.

And that's where the community's help for pollinators and other creatures fits in.

As is already happening in some

other places, there are opportunities for the village school, St Mary's church, local farmers, roadside verges and residential gardens (as well as Parish Council land and the existing Nature Reserves) to become parts of a wider network of 'nature-friendly' places; creating corridors for wildlife by connecting green spaces across the county and beyond.

All the work that has already taken place in Buriton was praised by the organisers and ideas for 2023 were discussed.

Each part of the village might wish to think about how their area could help. It may be possible to plant some more native trees or shrubs, to build bug hotels, to reduce grass mowing and to increase areas of wildflowers. Simply mowing some parts of grassed areas less frequently and thinking carefully about when not to cut vegetation back can probably help to create corridors for wildlife to connect to the wider countryside. And everyone can get a buzz out of wildlife-friendly gardening!

There is already quite a lot of information and ideas about how we can all help nature on the community website (<https://www.buriton.info/helping-nature-help-us>) but if anyone would like to join the community's Pollinator Group or help in any other way, please contact parish clerk Petra Norris on 0794353605 or email buritonparishcouncil@hotmail.co.uk