

Gardening for nature and the climate

Dozens of people learnt valuable lessons from Melanie Oxley's talk in the village hall in March.

The talk described effects of climate change and other human impacts on the natural world; explained why our gardens are important for climate change resilience and for biodiversity; and helped everyone build resilience into the way we look after our gardens.

Amongst Melanie's top tips were to aim for a garden that has:

- a good area of perennial plants and shrubs
- a diverse range of native and non-native pollinator-friendly plants to give nectar every month of the year
- climbers, including ivy, trailing along fences and walls
- at least one native tree.

She also encouraged everyone to leave their lawn uncut all summer apart from a mowed pathway.

Melanie was full of praise for the work that the Parish Council and families are doing in Buriton – including awards from the County Council and the National Park Authority in connection with pollinators, trees, bees, swifts, moths and more.

A copy of Melanie's complete presentation can be seen on the community website (www.buriton.info) and she asked people "how many of these boxes can you tick?":

My garden has:

- a pond
- a bird box
- bird feeders
- a gap in the fence for hedgehogs
- a bat box
- a compost heap/bin
- an area which I leave untidy
- climbers on fences and walls
- native trees
- pollinator-friendly flowers
- a flowering lawn
- berried shrubs
- fruit trees
- a wood-pile
- I don't use pesticides
- I use peat-free compost

