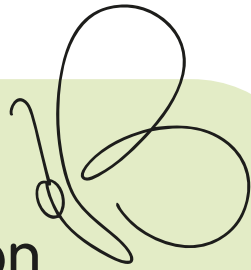


# let's get buzzing in Buriton



Buriton's wildlife work continues to attract help and praise from the County Council and National Park Authority. Both are featuring projects in the parish as case studies to assist other communities.

As well as the edges of the Recreation Ground, more and more villagers are now devoting parts of their gardens to nature which can help a wide range of species - including important pollinators.

Many of these creatures are vital for crops and fruit - with estimates suggesting that over a third of the food that we eat depends on these unsung little heroes. But many of them are now struggling because of the loss of habitats and use of pesticides. They need all the help we can give.

Dozens of people followed the Open Gardens Re-naturing Trail in July and saw how even the smallest of spaces can help wildlife. The variety of gardens in Greenway Lane, Heatherfield and Bones Lane were all providing food and homes for birds, bugs, beetles, butterflies, hedgehogs and water creatures. And the public open spaces that were featured on the trail also support a diversity of species by providing food, shelter and places to breed.

In some cases, it was only necessary

to devote a small part of a family garden to nature: perhaps a section of lawn which is not mown so frequently or providing a water feature or ensuring that flowers are suitable for our native pollinators for as many months as possible. And, of course, none of the gardens on the trail used pesticides at all.

In spite of the unseasonably windy conditions, a range of butterflies and bees could be seen - many in places where, only a few years ago, the environment would not have been suitable for them.

Moths are also particularly efficient pollinators - but we see less of them as they tend to be active during the night-time. The Parish Council has agreed to help Hampshire's biodiversity experts by collecting records of moths found in the parish and won a grant to buy the equipment required. A non-harmful moth trap is available for use by a rota of villagers. The light-based device attracts moths which are held in a container, allowing people to identify and record the species without causing any harm. All the moths are subsequently released back into their native environment.

A fascinating sample of local moths caught in this way was on show at the Farm Fun Day in June. Three large hawk-

moths stole the show but there were lots of other very attractive and delicate species, too.

Recent months have also seen other popular events including the guided open morning at the Coulters Dean Nature Reserve in June, the 'Swift Pint' walk in July and a bat walk in the Chalk Pits Nature Reserve in August.

Thirty swift boxes were installed around the village in May to provide homes for these amazing flying creatures in future years, as they are also declining and under threat.

The annual community Hay-Day on the recreation ground is due in September with a fungi walk being planned for October.

Autumn and winter are times to plan gardens for next year, leaving flowers to turn to seeds so that birds can feed and leaving ivy until after flowering as it is a top food at this time of year.

The forthcoming months are also a perfect time to catch up on some inspirational reading to give ideas for next year. The County Council's nature experts recommend each of these three books by Dave Goulson: 'The Garden Jungle', 'A sting in the tale' and 'A buzz in the meadow'. They explain that he writes in a very accessible manner, describing the plight of insects in an easy-to-understand way and his life-long passion for bees is so apparent and infectious that it's impossible to look at pollinators in the same way after reading his books!

Some great ideas for Christmas presents?

There's also more help for everyone from the County Council's experts on their website about pollinators: <https://www.hants.gov.uk/thingstodo/countryside/get-involved/pollinator-pledge>

