

let's get buzzing in Buriton



Autumn has seen more activity on Buriton's nature projects – with a film crew also visiting to highlight achievements.

Popular events for villagers have included a bat walk in August to see and hear bats and a fascinating fungi walk in October. Thanks are due to bat man Jake Barnes from the South Downs National Park and our fungi friend, Shona Jenkins from the County Council, for leading these excellent events.

September saw another successful 'Community Hay-Day' with villagers improving conditions for wildflowers on the recreation ground. Bee King, from the County Council's team of experts, also helped and the National Park Authority lent some traditional wooden hay rakes which were game changers!

For the last few years, the edges of the recreation ground have been allowed to grow long – with appreciation from villagers and wildlife. But experts explain that the grass has to be cut at least once a year or else it forms a thick thatch which wildflowers can't survive.

And then all the cuttings have to be removed to reduce soil fertility which is vital to help wildflowers in the future. The raking action also helps to open up the grasses and gives wildflowers a better chance

to get established.

This year, the first effects of the Yellow Rattle sown last winter could be seen. This semi-parasitic flower feeds off the roots of grasses and it's hoped that this will gradually allow delicate wildflowers to appear.

The film crew visit was part of a County Council project to highlight its Nature Recovery priorities, restoring habitats, protecting wildlife and combating climate change through community action.

Work in Buriton will feature in a special film about the importance of pollinators which is due to appear in the spring.

In September the Parish Council continued its support for nature by adjusting the cutting of the hedge along the Kiln Lane side of the recreation ground. Only the top and outside will be cut this time to allow berries etc to grow on the inside to help wildlife.

The Council has also asked EHDC about the poor state of the village pond and have been told that the District Council is producing a management plan.

With more and more villagers now devoting parts of their gardens

to nature, the community is helping a wide range of species which, in turn, can help crops and food flourish in surrounding fields.

