

JULY 2022 newsletter



BRIDPORT TREE PLANTING Let's help double tree cover

This issue - our 18th - is mostly about biodiversity. Planting the right trees in the right places brings immediate benefits for nature. In the summer months - when we are not planting saplings - we can look around and see inspiring results on both a big and small scale.



A yellowhammer, like one recently seen at Crutchley Farms.

In June we visited the Crutchley Estate, north of Uploders, for a walk organised by the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. This 800 acre plus enterprise is partly farmed for nature. Starting at Collins Nets, east of Uploders (map: <https://www.google.com/maps/@50.7400989,-2.6930995,15.98z>), a big party were led by farm manager Anthony Butler and co-owner Victor Crutchley on a fascinating introduction to crop rotations, planting for wildlife, woodland development and wildflower meadows, some of which have been untouched for years.

We looked at a silt trap to prevent soil being washed into the Asker, at a 17 acre field planted only with crops for winter birds, and at Milleniumn Copse planted 22 years ago with pines, spruces, larch and cedar as the “nurse” to push up the oaks planted at the same time. Alders and aspens have spread from the few planted. Willows have come in from neighbouring woods. Many orchids and oxeye daisies now colonise the rides and open areas - a wonderful sight.

Then on to a big field sown for pollinators with a nectar mix of alsike clover, birdsfoot trefoil, vetch, fenugreek, lucerne, phalcelia, red campion, red clover, sainfoin, sweet clover, black knapweed, white campion, musk mallow and black medick. What a flowering sight! The bees were busy ...

It was lovely to see the yellowhammer and a tribute to what regenerative farming can achieve.

But even we in Bridport, in a much smaller way, can help biodiversity. At one site we planted a couple of years ago now - Dibdin View, land owned by Magna Housing Association - there are signs of enormous improvement in insect life where

once there had only been bare, mown, grass. All in a few square metres.

There is this fellow, for example, munching on a thistle.
Believed to be the caterpillar of a Painted Lady butterfly.

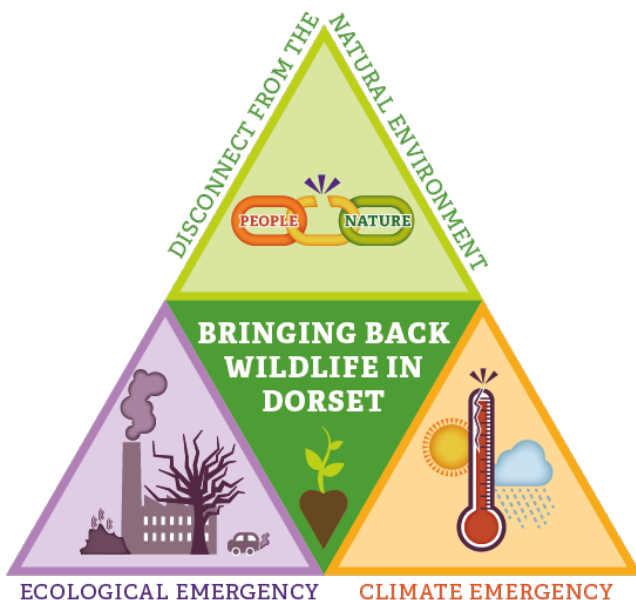


There are hundreds of grasshoppers - too quick and agile to photograph - and other visitors.



So, why do insects matter? As Dr. George McGavin, President of Dorset Wildlife Trust, explains in their latest newsletter ... "insects are the most important group of animals that have ever lived. They have been around for 400 million years, were among the the first animals on land, the first to take to the air and today make up well over half of all known species on our planet. Insects are the major carnivores, the major herbivores, the major recyclers and the major pollinators."

Go to their website <https://www.dorsetwildlifetrust.org.uk/what-we-do/about-us/wilder-dorset-2030-our-strategy> to see what they are trying to do to take us to the year 2030



And as we know from our own eyes here in Bridport, you get more insects in the "weedy and wild" areas where you plant more trees. Simple as that.

Why is this important? This month the Environment Agency warned

"Due to centuries of industrialisation and extraction of natural resources, the UK is now one of the most nature-depleted countries in the world. Recent trends show a rapid decline in many species, and habitats such as wetlands and wildflower meadows have all but disappeared. While it may appear like a green and pleasant land, there is in fact relatively little space left for nature in our cities and countryside. Land use change has encroached on natural habitats and produced pollutants which impact the quality of remaining habitats. Climate change is also beginning to have an impact on species distributions, and is predicted to have a stronger effect in the future."

Go to https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1088383/Working_with_nature_-_report.pdf

There is a new umbrella website for Bridport for all interested in the environment and global heating.

Bridport Climate Response

Simple steps to help yourself, the climate and our community

Go to [https://
www.bridportclimateresponse.net/](https://www.bridportclimateresponse.net/)

We recommend you try to visit the month-long exhibition of photographs opening on July 20th at the Bridport Arts Centre. They are by local resident Sam Rose and the title is **REWILDING UNWRAPPED. [https://
www.whatifyoujustleaveit.info/unwrapped](https://www.whatifyoujustleaveit.info/unwrapped)**

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Are you interested in Bridport's birds, whether in your garden, in a park or out in the countryside and at sea? Here is an amazing website - what a lot of work! [https://drive.google.com/file/d/
1UPyDVbcAMyZccdgARWKA7TTxybg8WGZM/view](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1UPyDVbcAMyZccdgARWKA7TTxybg8WGZM/view)

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OTHER NEWS

Bridport Tree Planting is to explore a large, long and narrow site owned by the Town Council to the north west of the town, to stock with trees and shrubs, with local demand for a wildflower meadow, too. Tricky, because it is used extensively by dog walkers and for children to play in. Interested? Want to help? Do contact us.

Joe Hackett, Co-Ordinator, Bridport Tree Planting.
joe@thehacketts.uk