

# JUNE 2024 newsletter



## BRIDPORT TREE PLANTING

Let's help double tree cover

We are in a quiet phase, with no more plantings after April / May but lots of weeding. We planted some nice conifers at the Golf Club in the last of the wet weather. People keep giving us little trees in pots - we found homes for some sweet chestnuts, oaks and hazel, then someone came knocking with some more oaks. That is what we are here for - we'll find somewhere for them to grow.



So, with no planting news this is a different newsletter with some links to varied activities / projects close to our hearts. Here's a flyer for that great flyer, the swift. Bridport, already a Bee Friendly Town, is now exploring its relationship with swifts. It's true that you'll

never see a swift in a tree - they never land except for nesting in our many older buildings - but the sound of them screeching overhead after they arrive in May is a real sign of summer here at last.

CELEBRATING PEOPLE, PLACE & CULTURE

# SWIFT SUMMER

## FREE EVENTS PROGRAMME

#BridportSwiftTown



COMMON GROUND • BRIDPORT TOWN COUNCIL • DORSET WILDLIFE TRUST • BRIDPORT BIRD CLUB • RSPB • BRIDPORT 24 TOWN OF CULTURE • BRIDPORT ARTS CENTRE

### SWIFT PINT SURVEYS

with ecologist & Bridport birder Tom Brereton

A convivial introduction to Citizen Science & the craft of swift surveying. You'll hear about the Swift Pint project & how to observe & record swifts, & become a Bridport Swift Guardian.

27TH JUNE & 10TH JULY | 6.30PM | TIGER INN

### DRAW LIKE A SWIFT

with Jo Burlington from Oops Wow Messy Art

Learn about these amazing birds & explore how we can move our bodies to get some of their energy into our drawings. Free & open to all, from age 3 & up!

29TH JUNE | 2PM-3.30PM | YOUTH & COMMUNITY CENTRE

### SWIFT TOWN POETS

with writer and performer Sarah Acton

A gentle walk around town, immersed in the sounds of a summer, pausing for readings & writing, sharing in the joy of swifts & making new poetry for Bridport Swift Town. Adults & young people aged 12+, free & open to all

30TH JUNE | 7.30PM-9PM | ST MARY'S HALL

### FLOCKS & FLICKER BOOKS

with illustrator & educator Rowan Beecham

Fly, dream, imagine. . . Ink swifts into flicker books & migrate with them through the pages; craft flying flocks from recycled fabrics & watch them breathe in the wind. Free & open to all.

6TH JULY | 11AM-1PM | WI HALL

### STAND UP FOR SWIFTS!

with artist, writer & activist Kim Squirrel

Get the Swift Town message out there! A fun, family design & make workshop creating posters & placards to inform, inspire & declare our Swift Town message. Free & open to all.

6TH JULY | 2PM-4PM | WI HALL

### SWIFTWALKING

with RSPB's Luke Phillips

Why have swifts returned to Bridport for 100s of years? What is it about the town's architecture & nearby green spaces that makes it a good place for swifts to be? Let's swiftwalk together & find out! Free & open to all.

6TH, 9TH & 23RD JULY | 6PM-8PM | from THE ARTS CENTRE

### SWIFT DANCE & MOVEMENT

with dancer Anna Golding of No Limits

An inclusive & creative dance & movement session inspired by the flight of Bridport's swifts, accompanied with live music by Andrew Dickson. Free & open to all.

15TH JULY | 11AM-12PM | MILLENNIUM GREEN

### SWIFT TOWN TALES

with folklorist & storyteller Martin Maudsley

Who is King of the Birds? How did Swallow get her Tail? Why do Swifts fly so high? Hear a flock of folktales to highlight the diversity of birds in Bridport, & help us create a new bird story for Bridport Swift Town. Free & open to all.

31ST JULY | 2PM | BRIDPORT COMMUNITY ORCHARD



LIMITED NUMBERS!

Register your free place by emailing

[swiftmail@commonground.org.uk](mailto:swiftmail@commonground.org.uk)

or scan the QR code to join our Facebook Group



FREE LIMITED EDITION BADGES  
when you come along & join  
BRIDPORT SWIFT TOWN

# BRIDPORT SWIFT TOWN

[crowdfunder.co.uk/bridport-swift-town](http://crowdfunder.co.uk/bridport-swift-town)



# HOW DO TREES HELP WITH AIR POLLUTION?



Here is a link to a short video from TREES FOR CITIES charity showing how trees help with pollution problems. Planting near roads - the main source of air pollution, from cars - helps. We all lose half a year of our lives from air pollution, these days.

---

Lastly, in this reduced newsletter, here is news from Scott Morrison, Chairman of West Dorset Friends of the Earth, about local campaigning to improve water quality in our local rivers - a topic which has become much debated in the run up to the General Election.

## **The Brit Catchment**

The Environment Agency may be understaffed and underfunded but there are a number of volunteer groups assisting in promoting the health of the Brit Catchment. Ian Rees of Dorset National Landscapes (ex-AONB) is building a coordinating group for the catchment, including citizen scientists, anglers, Dorset Wildlife Trust. Each group monitors some aspect of river and riparian health: Riverfly counts riverbed invertebrates to monitor over-all health, CSI (citizen science) tests phosphate, dissolved solids, Water Guardians (Wessex Water/Dorset Wildlife) check for pollution.

Here are some of the goals these groups might achieve:

- monitoring all rivers and streams within the catchment (including the Bride)
- setting up a local science lab to enable high quality assessment of possible pollution and test other chemical analysis of the water

- assessing and providing labour to change river flows where possible to prevent flooding (re-wiggling)
- assessing riverside plant and tree health and removing invasive plants
- being in a position to produce local analysis of river health and share this with Bridport

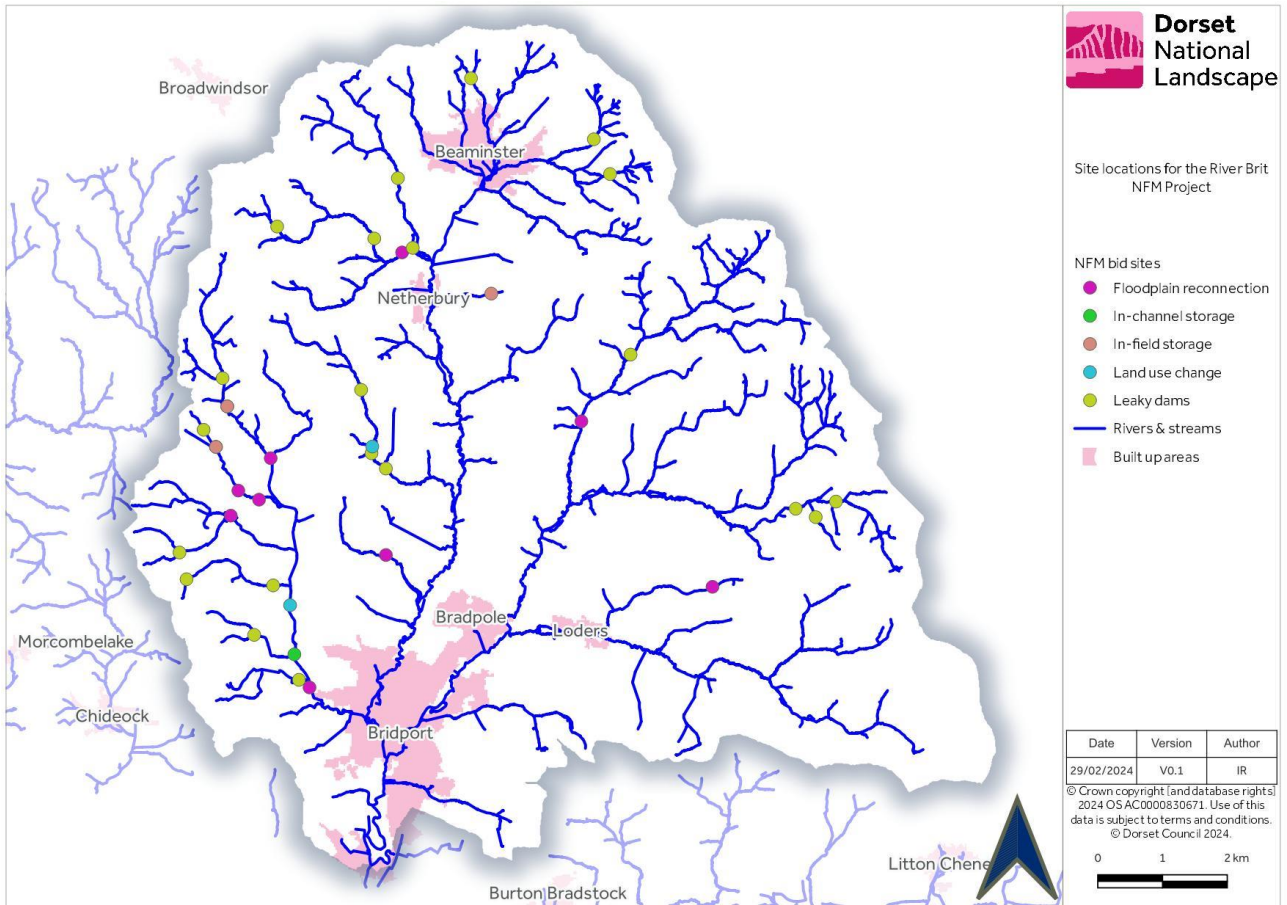
There is political action brewing as well. West Dorset Friends of the Earth are campaigning for the establishment of an Environmental Rights Act, enabling what has been called for by the UN: that the environmental rights of clean water, air and a healthy climate are **basic human rights**. The issues involved are particularly clear with our rivers and sewage (see image). Also the swimmers at West Bay are trying to qualify East Beach as a bathing quality site: meaning that it will be monitored and protected from sources of pollution that are known to be a risk to bather's health.



more details about local river monitoring can be found here:

<https://www.westdorsetfriendsoftheearth.org.uk/index.php/keeping-our-rivers-clean/>

Bridport Tree Planting is watching closely to see how Natural Flood Management - which will involve lots of tree planting higher up the local rivers above Bridport - will help the environment.



Joe Hackett  
Co-ordinator, Bridport Tree Planting