



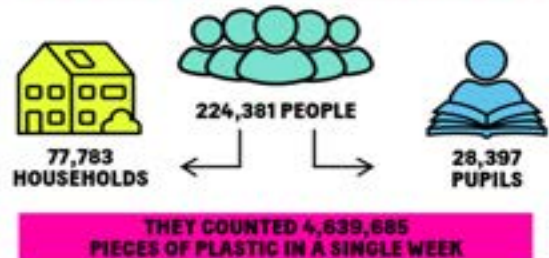
# SUSTAINABLE WOOTTON COURTENAY



## Newsletter No 12 May 2024



### OUR CITIZEN SCIENTISTS



One in every 300 people in the UK took part in the Big Plastic Count from 11<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> March including a number of Wootton Courtenay villagers. We counted the number of plastic items we threw away during that week, an introduction to Citizen Science for most of us and the results are in!



**OVER HALF\* OF THE  
PIECES OF PLASTIC  
WE THROW AWAY IS  
BEING INCINERATED**  
**THIS HAS GONE UP  
FROM 46% IN 2022,  
TO 58% TODAY**

\*This figure is based on the total number of plastic pieces that were counted, not the weight.

**UK HOUSEHOLDS  
ARE THROWING  
AWAY AN  
ESTIMATED\*  
1.7 BILLION  
PIECES OF PLASTIC  
A WEEK - THAT'S  
90 BILLION  
PIECES PER YEAR**



\*Assuming the data from our households are typical across the UK

### RECYCLING ALONE WON'T FIX THE PROBLEM

Even when plastic gets recycled, it ultimately ends up in the same place as unrecycled plastic.

Plastic quickly degrades when it's recycled and can only be re-processed once or twice before it's landfilled, exported or incinerated.



DISPOSE



RECYCLE  
A FEW TIMES



EXPORT,  
INCINERATE  
OR LANDFILL



58%  
INCINERATED



14%  
EXPORTED

**WHAT IS  
HAPPENING  
TO OUR  
PLASTIC  
WASTE?**



11%  
LANDFILLED



17%  
RECYCLED

**INCINERATING  
PLASTIC CAN RELEASE  
MORE CARBON  
DIOXIDE PER TONNE  
THAN BURNING COAL**

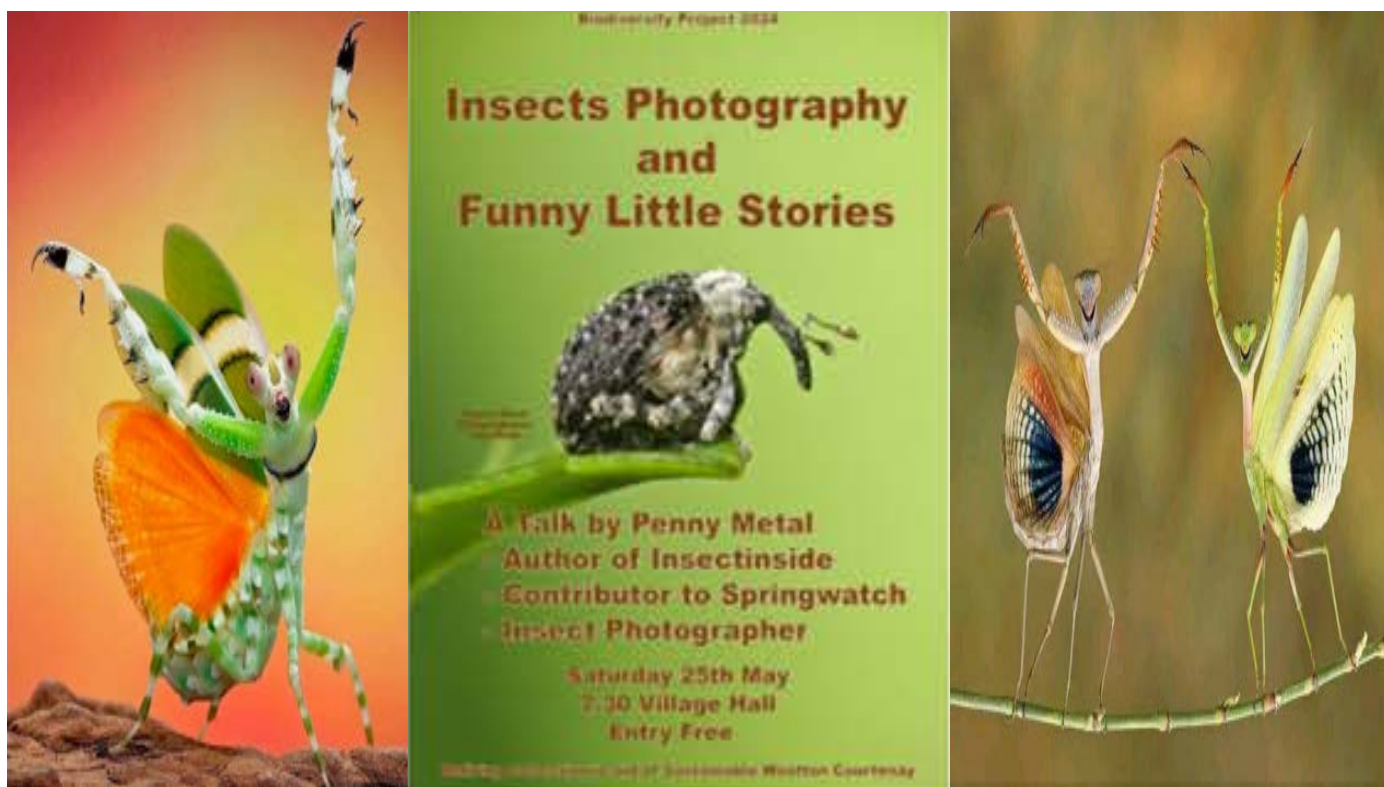


**WE NEED A  
STRONG  
GLOBAL  
PLASTICS  
TREATY  
THAT CUTS  
PLASTIC  
PRODUCTION  
BY AT LEAST  
75% BY 2040**





## Author Penny Metal Comes to Wootton Courtenay on May 25<sup>th</sup>



### **May 25<sup>th</sup>: An Enormous Outdoor Day of Free Nature Activities**



**Nettlecombe Court** is holding an outdoor day of free nature activities, stalls, screenings, food and drink and specialist guest talks on Saturday, **25<sup>th</sup> May from 10am-4pm**. No booking required – just turn up.

Exhibitors include the Butterfly Conservation Trust, Devon Wildlife Trust, Exmoor National Park, Exmoor Natural History Society, Exmoor Rivers and Streams, Geckoella, Roots and Feathers, Sea Watch Foundation, Somerset Rare Plants Group, Somerset Wildlife Trust, The National Trust, Watchet Hedgehogs, Wivey Grows and The Woodland Play Centre.

As well as hands on activities provided by the exhibitors there is also a jam-packed line up of interesting talks happening throughout the day, workshops to take part in and artists and musicians providing music and entertainment.

#### **Parking**

Parking is available in Combe Sydenham, postcode: TA4 4JG, only 5 minutes from Nettlecombe where shuttle buses will take you to and from the festival all day long.

The limited parking on site is reserved for exhibitors, staff and minibus groups.



### **Dunster Beach Awarded Brown Flag**



DUNSTER beach has been offered an unwelcome 'Brown Flag' for being one of the dirtiest bathing waters in the country. The award is the polar opposite of prestigious Blue Flags which are flown over beaches kept in tip top condition and having good facilities for visitors.



## 13 beaches given a 'Brown Flag Award'

1. Porthluney in Cornwall
2. Southsea East in Hampshire
3. Saint Mary's Bay in Kent
4. Littlestone in Kent
5. Blackpool North in Lancashire
6. St Annes North in Lancashire
7. Heacham in Norfolk
8. Weston Main, Weston Super Mare Sand Bay and Weston Super Mare Uphill Slipway in [Somerset](#)
9. Dunster Beach in [Somerset](#)
10. Bognor Regis, Aldwick in [Sussex](#)
11. Tynemouth Cullercoats in Tyne and Wear
12. Scarborough South Bay in North [Yorkshire](#)
13. Bridlington South Beach in East Riding of Yorkshire



**Made to last**

We use Teemill because their products are made to last and we encourage you to care for them properly and use them for as long as possible. T-shirts are printed to order in the UK using water based inks one at a time and in real time, so there's no waste from over-stocked designs and sizes. What is made is only what people need, when they need it. When products are no longer wearable, each is designed to be sent back to the manufacturer and the material reprocessed, respun and made into new products. You can find instructions on how to do this inside every product on the washcare label. Scan the code, and get Freepost code (if you're in the UK) to send the item back and get store credit in return.

Let's keep natural materials flowing, and end waste together.

- Made to be remade
- Plants not plastic
- Freepost recovery code inside

## Anglers National Line Recycling Scheme



Great to see this new Anglers National Line Recycling Scheme collection pipe at Porlock Weir. Thanks goes to Exmoor Adventures for sponsoring and hosting this pipe. Any fishing line and pieces of net found on the beach can be posted in the pipe ready for collection and recycling. This pipe joins others at Minehead harbour, Dunster beach car park, Blue Anchor seafront and Watchet.



# Wootton Courtenay's Biodiversity Survey 2024



Many thanks to everyone in our community who has already volunteered to help with our Biodiversity Survey 2024.



## Why Carry Out a Biodiversity Survey?

46% of our butterflies and 60% of the UK's flying insects have declined.

UK populations of the Spotted Flycatcher and Nightingales have fallen by 93% and the Cuckoo by 77%. Hedgehogs, Great Crested Newts, Small Tortoiseshell Butterflies and Dormice are all on the endangered list. Ghost Orchids and Downy Hemp Nettles have been declared extinct.

## Biodiversity is in rapid decline.

When we carried out research to see if we could find any previous local surveys we found one carried out by Malcolm Scott from the Exmoor Natural History Society of Woodcock Gardens Nature Reserve in about 1991. This lists all the flora and fauna he identified and provides us with a comparison point, which although not ideal, may be helpful in identifying some lost and endangered species.

A village biodiversity survey will help us identify current species and habitats that are important for biodiversity. The results will be published in a report in 2025 identifying the wealth of species we have, a comparison with the Woodcock Gardens' Survey, those species that may be endangered or lost and recommendations for action needed to address the issues that we uncover. We will also be contributing our findings to regional and national databases.

## How Are We Gathering the Information we need for our Village Biodiversity Survey?



We are using 2 methods of collecting the species information within the parish boundary:

a) Paper and pen Spotter sheets with tick box data collection sheets. There are 5 species spotter sheets in total which ask you to record sightings of birds, wild flowers, butterflies, moths and fungi. You can choose to spot one species or more than one.

b) Using the iNaturalist App with mobile phones, digital cameras and computers on which you can record any flora and fauna that you photograph.

## SPOTTER SHEETS

Sustainable Wootton Courtenay Biodiversity Survey 2024

**BUTTERFLY SPOTTER 1**

1. BRIMSTONE	2. BROWN ARGUS	3. CABBAGE WHITE
4. CLOUDED YELLOW	5. COMMA	6. COMMON BLUE
7. DARK GREEN FRITILLARY	8. GATEKEEPER	9. GLAUKOPH
10. GREEN HARTSHORN	11. GREEN MOTTLED WHITE	12. HEATH FRITILLARY
13. HEDYOTIS	14. LARGE SKIPPER	15. LARGE WHITE
16. MARBLED WHITE	17. MEADOW BROWN	18. ORANGE TIP
19. PRINTED LADY	20. PEACOCK	21. PURPLE HARTSHORN

Sustainable Wootton Courtenay Biodiversity Survey 2024

**BUTTERFLY SIGHTINGS: RECORDING SHEET**

YOUR NAME: (PLEASE PRINT) \_\_\_\_\_

YOUR HOUSE NAME: (PLEASE PRINT) \_\_\_\_\_

Month (Please tick)

Species	Tick if seen	A	M	J	J	Where did you see it? (Please tick)	
		P	A	U	U	Seen in garden Y/N	Where seen in village/surrounding fields
		R	T	N	L		
1. Brimstone							
2. Brown Argus							
3. Cabbage White							
4. Clouded Yellow							
5. Comma							
6. Common Blue							
7. Dark Green Fritillary							
8. Gatekeeper							
9. Grayling							
10. Green Hairstreak							
11. Green-crowned White							
12. Heath Fritillary							
13. Holly Blue							
14. Large Skipper							
15. Large White							
16. Marbled White							
17. Meadow Brown							
18. Orange Tip							
19. Painted Lady							
20. Peacock							
21. Purple Hairstreak							
22. Red Admiral							
23. Ringlet							

## RECORDING SHEET EXAMPLE

- 1) Print your name and house name in the spaces provided.
- 2) When you see a butterfly you may already know the name of the species but if not you can use the spotter sheet to help you identify it.
- 3) Find the species on the recording sheet, tick if seen, tick the month/s, and tick where it was seen (in your garden – yes or no and/or tick the end column to say where in the village).



## THE 4 OTHER SPOTTER SHEETS WHICH ALSO HAVE RECORDING SHEETS



email [sustainablewoottoncourtenay2@btinternet.com](mailto:sustainablewoottoncourtenay2@btinternet.com) to request a copy of the spotter sheets you'd like.

## iNATURALIST MOBILE PHONE APP

Well done to everyone who has started to take photographs of species using their phones and downloading them to our iNaturalist Wootton Courtenay Community page on the app. We have an instruction sheet which explains how to use the app – email [sustainablewoottoncourtenay2@btinternet.com](mailto:sustainablewoottoncourtenay2@btinternet.com) to request a copy.

## 156 observations already!

Below is a copy of our Wootton Courtenay community page on the iNaturalist website. You can see some recent photographs taken by villagers and visitors to the area and a parish map showing where the variety of species have been seen.







The “world’s first” paper margarine tub is now available in UK supermarkets. The new Flora packaging became available in the UK across 386 Sainsbury’s stores from 17 April. The Flora tubs, which have already been rolled out in Austria, are made from compressed wet paper fibres, and are completely oil and waterproof. The entire tub can be recycled as paper and cardboard household waste, as there is no plastic liner included.

Let’s hope we’ll see them soon in our local supermarkets.

Flora maker Upfield is hoping to cut plastic across its portfolio by 80% by 2030.

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## Birdsong once signalled the onset of spring on my street – but not this year

[Tony Juniper](#)



A dawn chorus of flutes, whistles and chirps once flowed through my Cambridge window, but there has been a shocking collapse in birdlife. What can be done?

Every year from February through to June, the early morning chorus of birdsong is one of the most evocative manifestations of spring. During late winter I open the bedroom window before going to sleep, to hear that incredible mix of flutes, whistles and chirps that begin before first light, when I wake. [I listen for the layers of song](#) that simultaneously come from close by and far away.

This year though, the dawn chorus that once was the soundtrack for spring in central Cambridge has collapsed. It was noticeably quieter in 2023, and this year strikingly so. Blackbirds are depleted and song thrushes no longer heard at all. The dunnocks – once one of the most common garden songsters – have disappeared, as have the chaffinches, whose early February song was among the first audible confirmations of lengthening days. The cheery chatter of house sparrows is absent and the once familiar sound of coal tits has fallen silent. Long-tailed tits are now rare, and so far this year I’ve heard no blackcaps. Great and blue tits, robins and goldfinches, are still present, but down in number.

Everywhere is different, with extreme weather and its consequences for wildlife varying from place to place, making it hard to pin down the blend of factors affecting populations. Friends and colleagues across the country report a mixed picture, with some hearing a dawn chorus like previous years. But in our eastern urban locality the change is dramatic.

One way to cope would be to keep the window shut. A better one is to help the birds recover, by taking action in our gardens and parks, and redoubling efforts in boardrooms and among governments to drive forward with net zero ambitions. The frontline is both global and local if we want to enable wildlife to survive extremes.

*Tony Juniper CBE is an environmentalist and Chair of Natural England*