



SUSTAINABLE WOOTTON COURTENAY



Newsletter No 13 June 2024



WOOTTON COURTENAY'S BIODIVERSITY SURVEY

Many thanks to all our village supporters who are using the spotter sheets (available at the village shop) or the mobile phone App iNaturalist to record the flora and fauna seen within the parish boundary.

To date iNaturalist has received 362 observation photographs representing 270 species!

How about this lovely photograph of a robin which hopped onto James Macbeth's phone at the very moment he was recording an observation on the iNaturalist App! Magic!

Below are photographs of 5 different species recorded on the Wootton Courtenay iNaturalist site.



Common Stinkhorn
Phallus impudicus



Brimstone Moth
Opisthographis luteolata



Field Vole
Microtus agrestis



Common Lizard
Zootoca vivipara



Evening Bats
(Family Vespertilionidae)



Wootton Courtenay

About

Leave 6

Welcome to the Wootton Courtenay iNaturalist project: a collaboration between Somerset Wildlife Trust's West Somerset Wildways project and Sustainable Wootton Courtenay. Nestling within Exmoor National Park, with habitats ranging from gardens to pasture to hedgerow to woodland, the area

[Read More >](#)

[Your Membership](#)

[Project Journal](#)



HAVE YOU SEEN A STRANLINE BEETLE?

These beetles have not knowingly been seen since 2002 when they were sighted at Braunton Burrows in North Devon. They're about 2cm long with distinctive black and sandy coloured markings. They spend their days hiding under beach debris and emerge at night to feed on sandhoppers and other invertebrates along the strandline. Over the next few years the organisation Bug Life will be undertaking surveys for Strandline Beetles at locations in South West England to see if any remnant populations remain.

If you do see one, please take a photograph and send a copy to Sustainable Wootton Courtenay at sustainablewoottoncourtenay2@btinternet.com and to Bug Life.



GOOD NEWS THANKS TO SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH.

Scientists have recently discovered that a mushroom called *Pestalotiopsis Microspora*, is capable of eating plastic! It contains a chemical that breaks down polyurethane, the key ingredient in plastic, and turns it into organic matter. This discovery has the potential to be used to clean up landfill sites.



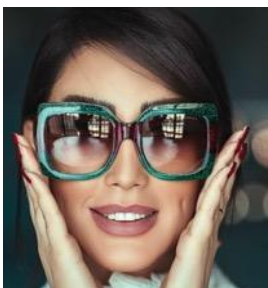
WHAT TO DO WITH OLD PAIRS OF GLASSES

1. SPECSAVERS

How to be involved: Drop glasses off the in-store collection bin at the Minehead store.

Specsavers offer recycling by partnering with the organisation MYgroup. Once dropped off in one of the in-store recycling boxes, glasses will go on to become anything from garden furniture to shop fittings. You can donate old glasses cases through the donation boxes as well.

2. PEEP EYEWEAR



How to be involved: Send in via Royal Mail.

[Peep Eyewear](#) will upcycle, repair and resell old glasses frames. Making this option even better, the brand will also make a donation to Lions Club and will plant a tree! You can donate old spectacles and prescription glasses as well as vintage sunglasses to Peep.

Any glasses that can't be restored and resold are either recycled, or their parts are reused to repair other glasses. When donating glasses frames to Peep you also receive a £10 voucher for the store.

3. RETROSPECCED



How to be involved: Send old glasses to the organisation ([Retrospecced](#), PO Box 760, Wakefield, WF1 9TN).

Having partnered with Vision Aid Overseas, [Retrospecced](#), a vintage and upcycled glasses reseller, accepts glasses frames to be refurbished and recycled. 20% of the profits garnered from the sale of these refurbished frames are donated to Vision Aid Overseas, helping to restore sight to people around the world.

The brand asks that frames donated are still in a good condition. For each usable pair of glasses that are sent to Retrospecced, you will receive a £5 voucher to go towards a new pair of glasses from the Retrospecced store.

Retrospecced promotes a more sustainable approach to the eyewear industry. It champions a circular system, a handy recycling scheme and some great eco-friendly eyewear.

4. REUSE THEM WITH NEW LENSES



If you are wondering what to do with your old glasses as you've broken the lenses or you need a new prescription but you don't want to part with the frames you love, then try getting the lens replaced. Most optometrists will replace lenses, meaning you can keep your favourite specs.

As always, reduced consumption is the most sustainable policy. By holding onto our old frames, we are avoiding waste being generated and avoiding the waste from creating new frames.

VETS URGED TO CUT PESTICIDE FLEA TREATMENTS AMID RIVER POLLUTION FEARS



Vets have been advised to limit the use of flea treatments containing pesticides on dogs and cats after a study revealed the vast amount of toxic substances in them that end up in rivers.

Pet owners using these [flea treatments](#) also risk contaminating their hands with fipronil and imidacloprid, two insecticides, for at least 28 days after the treatment has been applied, according to research by the University of Sussex and Imperial College London.

Dave Goulson, a professor of biology at Sussex who supervised the research, said: "These two chemicals are extremely potent neurotoxic insecticides and it is deeply concerning that they are routinely found on the hands of dog owners through ongoing contact with their pet. Pet owners will also be upset to learn that they are accidentally polluting our rivers by using these products.

Vets often recommend regular flea treatments, even when dogs and cats do not have fleas, to prevent the insects from taking shelter in their fur. But the scientists say this could have drastic implications for wildlife, as the pesticides contained within the flea treatments can harm fish and invertebrates that live in waterways.

Goulson said: "I would argue that vets should stop encouraging dog and cat owners to use these treatments prophylactically. If an animal hasn't got fleas, why would you treat it for fleas? The majority of use at present is simply not needed. Secondly, vets could encourage pet owners to wash the dog or cat bedding regularly – this is where the flea larvae live."

Guy Woodward, a professor of ecology at Imperial College London and co-author of the research, said: "Despite these chemicals being banned from outdoor agricultural use for several years, we are still finding them in UK freshwaters at levels that could harm aquatic life. This paper shows how domestic pet flea and tick treatments, a largely overlooked but potentially significant source of contamination, could be polluting our waterways."



SUSTAINABLE WOOTTON COURTENAY BEACH CLEAN AT DUNSTER BEACH on Sunday, JULY 7th from 10am - 11am

The Marine Conservation Society stated that 385 litter items were found per 100m of beach surveyed at last year's Great British Beach Clean.

Sustainable Wootton Courtenay members will be doing their bit to improve one of our local beaches by carrying out a beach clean on Sunday, July 7th from 10am-11am. If you would like to join us we'd love to hear from you. Please email sustainablewoottoncourtenay2@btinternet.com or call 07775 743571 for details.

FOOTNOTE



This drawing is by Anja Rozen, a 13 year old primary school student in Slovenia. She was chosen from 600,000 children around the world to create a piece of art to show what peace looks like, She is the winner of the International Plakat Miru competition.

She said, "My drawing represents the land that binds us and unites us. Humans are woven together. If someone gives up, others fall. We are all connected to our planet and to each other, but unfortunately we are little aware of it. We are woven together. Other people weave alongside my own story and I weave theirs" said the young designer.

SUSTAINABLE GARDENING by MARGARET LOVATT

I have been asked to write about gardening sustainably during the Summer. I will start with a few suggestions for gardening without chemicals and also some plants that attract pollinating insects.

I know there are many lovely gardens in Wootton Courtenay and very experienced gardeners so perhaps you could share your tips as well.

A lot has been written about trying to garden with nature and avoid all chemicals and here are a few of those ideas:

- a) Attract predators such as birds , ladybirds and other insects that eat aphids for instance.
- b) Avoid monoculture , grow vegetables and flowers together.
- c) Sow seeds in pots and plant out when they are stronger and past the vulnerable seedling stage.



RHS
Inspiring everyone to grow

**RHS Plants for Pollinators
Garden plants**
rhs.org.uk/plantsforpollinators

RHS Registered Charity No. 222879 / SC038262

Get your garden buzzing

- ◆ Fill gardens with **RHS Plants for Pollinators** plants
- ◆ Grow a **range of plants** for year-round flowering
- ◆ **Avoid** plants with double or multi-petalled flowers
- ◆ **Never use pesticides** on plants in flower
- ◆ Provide nest sites for **wild bees**

Subspecies and cultivars of plants listed here are also **Plants for Pollinators**, except for those that provide significantly reduced floral resources (i.e. pollen and nectar). This includes most doubles. See p.2 for **key to codes**.

Winter

Nov – Feb

<i>Clematis cirrhosa</i> Spanish traveller's joy	C
<i>Crocus species</i> crocus (winter-flowering)	B
<i>Eranthis hyemalis</i> winter acornite	B
× <i>Fatsyhedera lizei</i> tree ivy	S
<i>Galanthus nivalis</i> common snowdrop	B
<i>Heleborus species and hybrids</i> hellebore (winter-flowering)	H
<i>Lonicera × purpusii</i> Purpus honeysuckle	S
<i>Mahonia species</i> Oregon grape	S
<i>Salix aegyptiaca</i> musk willow	S
<i>Sarcococca confusa</i> sweet box	S

Photo: RHS / Carol Sheppard (bumblebee on Salvia farinacea "Victoria").



There are many websites that recommend the best plants for pollinating insects, and no shortage of ideas for the Summer.

The RHS <, Get your garden buzzing > has hundreds of suggestions. These include many herbs, lavender thyme and borage. Echinacea - cone flower and catmint to name just a few.

Happy Summer gardening!