

Buriton Open Gardens and Renaturing Trail Guide Sunday, 16th July 2023

Gardens Open 2 – 5pm Church Cream Teas 2- 6pm

An opportunity to visit a range of gardens and public open spaces around the village to see how they are catering for wildlife.

Enjoy a gentle stroll through our lovely village and see how the community is helping nature to heal our planet with some very simple renaturing initiatives. Here is a little taster of what you might get to see and we hope to inspire you to join the campaign to support nature and improve life for all just by doing some very simple things to your own back yard.



The route below is just a suggestion and you may well want to enjoy looking at all the venues before relaxing with refreshments at the Church.

Venue 1 – Tithe House Garden - Two acres of mixed planting and meadow grass. There is an orchard, a wildlife pond (in desperate need of rain to fill it up!), Hornbeam hedging, nut trees, a vegetable plot plus a numerical maze for some extra entertainment. The aim has always been to be as natural as possible. There is also a wildflower hay meadow which will have been harvested.

Venue 2 – Heatherfield – one of our lovely village greens is trying to push up some wild flowers and awaiting new residents in the form of wildlife friendly trees. Heatherfield is full of lovely gardens and one of them at No 7, is particularly wild, providing a home to many a bird, bug and butterfly, fish, frogs, voles, mice, hedgehogs, and a visiting fox. Look closely into the wild hedge whilst your there and you may just see a pair of beady eyes having a close look at you too! Now take the cut way through to Bones Lane and enjoy the beautiful flowers and grasses here which thrive totally unaided. It is an example of how beautiful things can be without trimmers and weed killer.

Venue 3 – Bones Lane is a particularly beautiful lane with banks full of wild flowers, some wonderful trees, a meadow and the entrance to the very special walk along the Links to Petersfield. Take a stroll up and down the lane and you are invited into the garden at number 52. Some bird and wildlife experts live here and they will be able to tell you a bit about their nature friendly garden and the birds we share our village life with.

Venue 4 – At the very end of Bones Lane heading towards the Village Church, you will find a very special bit of habitat, created with great care by a human, to appeal to bugs and bees and help them thrive. Officially known as a ‘Dead Hedge’, it is stuffed full of natural matter to make it the ideal home for the insects we need to ensure our own survival.

Venue 5 – Heading right towards the Village Pond, walk through the green and between some spectacular trees, soaking up some heavenly green vibes along the way, and then cross the road to our beautiful pond. The surrounds are steeped in human history with our Church, Manor and Rectory. The Pond is a wildlife watering hole and part of the Buriton bee lines which enable our essential pollinators to travel from place to place doing their work to produce food for us and all other living things. It also has important plants and creatures of its own.

Venue 6 – Right next door is St Mary’s Church, a treat to visit any day, but today they are providing you with delicious refreshments, so refuel here and help raise some funds for the Church. On the way back out, have a look at the recycling the Church is doing. Once outside you can also have a wander in the Church graveyard to see how our eco Church is doing good work for nature and looking beautiful too.

Venue 7 – Turning left as you come out of the Church gates, take a stroll up to the kissing gate and then look to the right of the steep path. Here some Buriton residents are rewilding part of the meadow. The grass and flowers are doing very well and it is hoped that the habitat will encourage a good crop of the small rodents that Barn Owls living here need to feed on. One of the cottage owners had a family of these birds take up residence in their chimney and very kindly allowed them to stay until they had finished nesting – extreme rewilding in Buriton!

Venue 8 – if you are up for a longer walk then take a trip along the path to the left and see how many butterflies you can spot as you look at the perfect hedging for wildlife planted here. On a sunny day this path is all of a flutter with these creatures which are another very important pollinator. Please let us know what you spot so we can record the findings. At the end of the path there is access turning right up onto the South Downs Way, but today we ask you to turn around, head back to the pond and then stroll up the High Street.

Venue 9 – On the right, just after the wonderful rose garden at The White House, you will see a footpath sign and the turning to our Village Hall and Recreation Ground. Head to the far side of the hall and a beautifully maintained rec can be found. This is a place for human relaxation and sport, but we have made sure it is also ideal for other species. Walk around the rec and you will see our Bug Hotel in the new copse of Field Maples as well as the wild flower borders now teeming with yellow rattle and the other new trees and hedgerow planting. Their edges are also full of burrows for small mammals – which they made all by themselves.

We hope you enjoy the stroll and if you can help with telling us about any interesting things you see along the way, or you can suggest an area that maybe improved for wildlife with some tree planting, please email lynneashcroft101@gmail.com .