

make yatton greener

climate action together



WILDLIFE

EDITION



Condensing the research into bite-sized, action-based chunks so you can do your part ...

This Make Yatton Greener newsletter has LOTS of information and is designed to ensure there's something for everyone, whether you've never planted anything in your life or you're looking for ways to deepen our community's response to climate change.

If you're short of time, go to the two in **bold**.

In this issue:

- **The Summary: Wildlife's two basic needs**
- Triple whammy actions with multiple benefits
- **Do Some Good** (easy/achievable actions)
- Build Toward Sustainability (put in the effort)
- Game Changers (to shift thinking and social structures)
- The Research
- Key upcoming dates
- Next issue...

The Summary

Many species of insects, birds and wildlife are rapidly declining. Without these, the whole ecosystem is under threat. Simple actions can make a huge difference.

Ecosystems exist for a reason – a thriving ecosystem needs variety. As big players at the bottom of the food chain, insects are crucial to a thriving eco-system, yet their numbers are in serious decline, along with many other species.

**Wildlife needs two major things to thrive:
a good food source and shelter.**



Did you know...

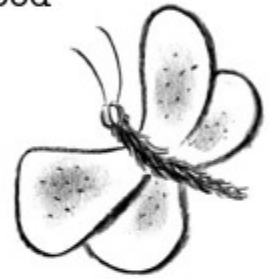
that we have at least
5 barn owls nesting in Yatton?
Why? Because humans have
kindly put up nest boxes to give
them a home.

The RSPB (Royal Society for the Protection of Birds) isn't just about birds ... their website has many resources relating to protecting all UK wildlife. Get your free guide at

www.rspb.org.uk/birds-and-wildlife/wildlifeguides/welcome-wildlife-to-your-garden

Triple whammy actions (multiple benefits)

- **Plant a fruit tree.** Provides shelter, pollination sites, and food sources for wildlife all at once.
- **Let Slugs/Snails/Insects be.** Don't use slug pellets and chemical pesticides. They not only kill slugs and insects but also the many birds, bats, hedgehogs etc. which eat them!
- **Create a herb garden.** Benefits insects (and therefore birds) and butterflies; also edible and has zero food miles and no carbon emissions to get to your plate!
- **Talk to others.** Show them this information and encourage them to join your efforts - we're all in this together.



Do Some Good

(easy/achievable actions)

- **ReWild:** leave a rough 'margin' or patch in your garden. Leave part of the lawn to grow like a wild meadow - this will encourage insects, shelter for small mammals
- **Provide shelter by making mini-habitats** build little log or stone piles where insects and small creatures can shelter.
- **Provide water; create a bird bath** -- can be as simple as an upturned bin lid. No deeper than 10cm deep, and no fish. Provides drinks/baths for birds, and habitat for toads, frogs, newts and insects. Ideally in a sheltered site.
- **Join YACWAG**, Yatton and Congresbury Wildlife Action Group and get involved in their activities. See www.yacwag.org.uk
- **Support the Agriculture Bill.** RSPB and WWF (World Wide Fund for Nature) are asking us to write to MPs to get them to support the Agriculture Bill to use legislation to protect both farmers and nature.
Do this in 2 mins is here: e-activist.com/page/54908/action/1?locale=en-GB



Build Toward Sustainability (put in the effort)

- **Create shelters:** put up a bird/owl box, create areas of the garden especially for insects and birds, plant shrubs, create a birdbath etc.

- **Make your garden wildlife friendly.**

Loads of ideas and advice at:

www.rspb.org.uk/birds-and-wildlife/advice/gardening-for-wildlife/creating-a-wildlife-friendly-garden/

www.rhs.org.uk/science/conservation-biodiversity/wildlife/encouragewildlife-to-your-garden

- **Create Hedgehog highways.** Hedgehogs like to travel across a wide territory. Talk to your neighbours about encouraging hedgehogs -- put gaps in the garden border/fences so they can get from garden to garden... so long as there aren't slug pellets!

- **Plant hedgerows** next to (or replacing) a fence. Hawthorn and Pyracantha are great as they provide nesting sites but are also a thorny deterrent to burglars!

- **Plan now to plant things this spring** that will attract insects and support caterpillars and larvae. Lots of advice here:

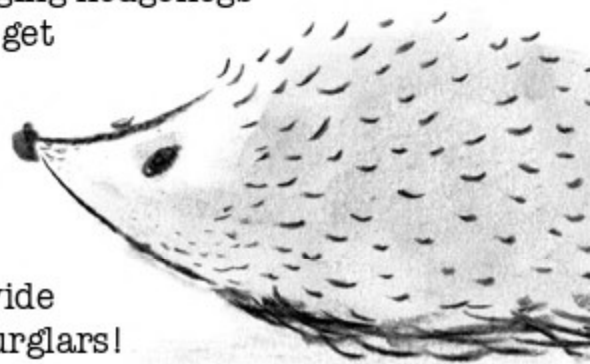
www.rspb.org.uk/birds-and-wildlife/advice/gardening-for-wildlife/plants-for-wildlife/

- **Unpave** - tear up the concrete; get back to soil and grass wherever possible.
- **Track and reduce your food miles.** Try an online food miles calculator such as this on www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-46459714
Buy more local produce.

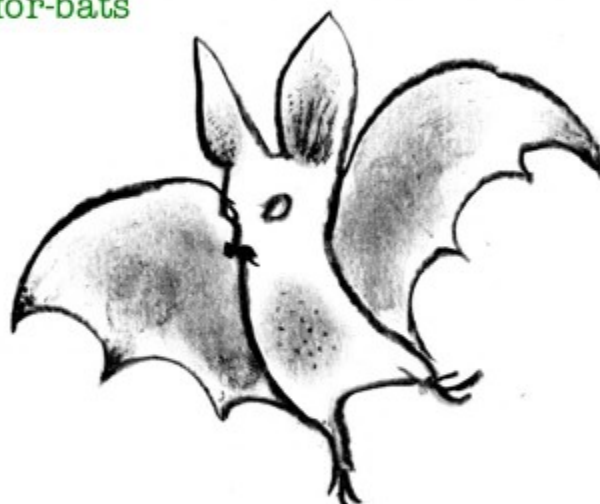


Did you know....

Our Cork and Fork shop in Yatton stocks lots of products grown or produced within 40 miles including many ales and ciders, juices, honey from Wrington, chocolate from Nailsea, as well as organic beef and lamb from Failand, plus pork, gammon, sausages and even local cheeses. Pop in to reduce your food miles!



- **Support Yatton's Bats** - we have an unusually high number of species and we are a bat hotspot. They need insects to eat so creating insect friendly gardens will help them thrive. Put up a bat box, or other actions here: www.bats.org.uk/advice/gardening-for-bats



Game Changers (to shift thinking and social structures)

- **Encourage neighbours** (esp in new housing developments) to do actions above to Do Some Good - if even 25% of people do these, it will make a huge difference.
- **Green Open Homes** and **Garden Open Days** - show others how to make their spaces more environmentally friendly by example - invite us in and show us around, give tips etc. **MYG** will be happy to circulate details for you or put you in touch with organisers of these events.
- **Start a plant sharing/information scheme** to encourage more people to plant insect/bird/wildlife friendly plants.
- **Research food production using local land** - how can we use local land for food production for the local community? We need good links with the farming community - how do we build these?
- Coordinate with others to **start a local food market** under the Country Markets www.country-markets.co.uk - Sue Simmons is a local contact.
- **Lobby government or write to your MP.** Check out the strategies and information at the WWF, RSPB and World Resources Institute (WRI). Join their campaigns and platforms.
- Get to know **Gold Standard** www.goldstandard.org and start a project that leads toward Zero Carbon.
- **Research a local wildlife issue** and make recommendations next year for further action to be taken by the council or individuals in the community.

The Research

BEST RESOURCES to help UK Wildlife: Huge amounts of info and actions at RSPB site: www.rspb.org.uk and www.rhs.org.uk

The latest UK State of Nature Report (2019)

nbn.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/State-of-Nature-2019-UK-full-report.pdf

This summary of the State of Nature Report (2019)

(www.nationaltrust.org.uk/features/state-of-nature-2019-uks-wildlife-loss-continues-unabated) states that since 1970 (and most rapidly recently):

- 15 per cent of species under threat of extinction and 2 per cent of species have already gone for good.
- Average abundance of wildlife has fallen by 13 per cent with the steepest losses in the last ten years.
- 41 per cent of UK species studied have fallen and 133 species have already been lost from our shores.
- Butterflies and moths, down 17 per cent and 25 per cent respectively. Numbers of high brown fritillary and grayling butterflies, have fallen by more than three quarters.
- The average amount of mammals has fallen by 26 per cent and the wild cat and greater mouse-eared bat are almost extinct.

Information on wildlife specific to Yatton and surrounding areas

[YACWAG \(Yatton and Congresbury Wildlife Action Group\)](http://yacwag.org.uk/wildlife)

yacwag.org.uk/wildlife

Bat conservation trust www.bats.org.uk



Information on insect declines:

www.somersetwildlife.org/sites/default/files/2019-11/FULL%20AFI%20REPORT%20WEB1_1.pdf

Key upcoming dates:

Monday 23rd March at 7pm -- Annual parish council meeting at Hangstones Pavillion. Hear how the council is working to tackle the climate emergency.

Monday, **March 30th** at Wills Memorial Hall in Bristol, hosted by Avon Needs Trees. A talk by author **Chris Goodall**, one of the UK's leading thinkers on reducing fossil fuels, titled "**What We Need to do Now**"

www.eventbrite.com/e/chris-goodall-bristol-what-we-need-to-do-now-tickets-90613731109?aff=ebdssbdestsearch

Next issue: **LITTER AND ENERGY**

- ways to cut energy use
- 20th March - 13th April - Great British Spring Clean
- Earth Hour (Switch off electrics) on Saturday 28th March, 8:30 - 9:30pm

Make Yatton Greener is looking for people to help! Contact us if you can:

- distribute MYG news to your local organisation or group (eg. church, scouts, clubs, sports etc.) via email or print
- put us in contact with a local group/organisation leader so we can reach more people
- organise our GB Spring Clean litter pick - plenty of advice available
- provide specialist advice about upcoming topics, including litter, energy, and composting
- join our community working group - a place for people who are passionate about local action to tackle climate change to organise projects and events
- publicise upcoming events (esp online)
- manage the MYG Facebook page (with others)
- act as a social network news gatherer so that those not on social media can benefit from information shared there
- assist at one of our events (set up, welcome, refreshments etc.)

In February we held an event to enable you to Grow Your Own Food!

If you'd like some of the notes to help you **plan your vegetable growing this year**, just email makeyattongreener@gmail.com for a copy.

Sign-off from the editor:

It's taken a little longer than anticipated to get this first issue out to you, but I hope you find it valuable and worth the wait. Please send any ideas, comments, feedback so we can keep improving it. Many thanks to Faith and Tony Moulin and YACWAG for knowledge and input for this issue.

MYG is now part of a coordinated effort across the county to work together with local government - to tackle climate change - this network is called **Zero Carbon North Somerset**. www.zerocarbonnorthsomerset.org please check out the link to find out more and register your interest.

Wishing you a happy spring. Heidi

What are your ideas ?

contact us by phone or text on **0777 868 3594**
by email us at makeyattongreener@gmail.com
or via our facebook page **Make Yatton Greener**

