

Our Vision:

A Parish and its people that are enriched by wildlife, where people enrich the natural world and help to safeguard it for the future.

Our aims are to:

Share knowledge of the wonderful wildlife in the Parish of Chudleigh.

Raise awareness through events and activities that involve and motivate the community.

Encourage positive action by local residents to attract and sustain more wildlife in the town and Parish of Chudleigh.

Conserve and enhance our existing wildlife and local habitats, features and species populations, through working together and with others.

Survey & record what we have, holding and sharing our wildlife records with others.

Advise groups and individuals on biodiversity and land management for wildlife.

Monitor development proposals that may result in damage to important wildlife.

Be environmentally and socially aware and responsible in what we do.

Interested in joining us?

If you would like to be added to our mailing list, are interested in joining the committee, or would like to volunteer, please contact

info.chudleighwild@gmail.com

The Geology of Chudleigh

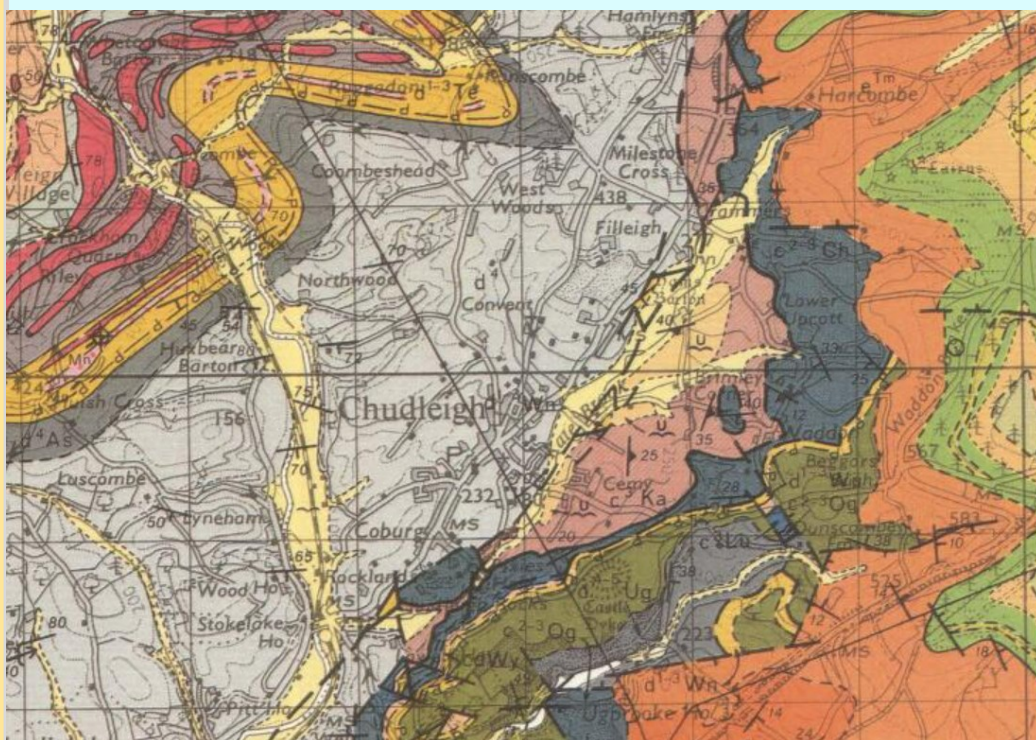
A brief 5 million year history

by John Evans

Friday April 22nd at 7.30pm

In Chudleigh Town Hall's Woodway Room

John Evans, our friendly neighbourhood geologist, will give a talk about what's beneath your feet and how it got there. He will introduce us to the rock types by telling a timeline based story of the evolution of the area, and the types of terrains and ecologies that existed.



Followed by

A Guided Walk

Saturday April 23rd at 2pm (approx. 2.5hrs)

Meet at Garden Spot Lane at 1.50pm

Numbers on the walk will be limited so booking is essential

To book email info.chudleighwild@gmail.com





Gardening For Wildlife

Many of our Chudleigh gardeners have supported us in our campaign to join up the gardens and open spaces across the town and create a corridor for wildlife.

Over a hundred people who were either doing all the right things already, or took up the challenge to make their gardens more attractive to wildlife, displayed our Gardening for Wildlife signs. Thank you for your support and for spreading the word about our campaign. Our

challenge is to double this number in 2022, so please continue to encourage your friends and families to join in. **Signs are available from Sue at:** info.chudleighwild@gmail.com

You can find the criteria for claiming a sign on our website at <https://www.chudleighwild.org/team-1>

Help build a community nature reserve

A YouGov survey, commissioned by RSPB has revealed that three-quarters of people are now doing something in their garden or outside space for wildlife, with 19% trying a lot, 30% trying a fair amount and 26% trying a little. **Chudleigh Wild applauds this, but there's always room for improvement!**

The RSPB's recommendations are: **Sunflowers** (beautiful, easy to grow and a great source of food for birds), **Cornfield annuals** (for just a few pounds you can have the glow of red poppies and blue cornflowers within weeks), **Lavender** (this lovely smelling herb is brilliant for bees and butterflies), **Foxgloves** (pink and white flowers that are bee magnets) and a **mini meadow**: just leave parts of you lawn to grow for a few months, or even better until late summer, and be rewarded with drifts of clover and other meadow flowers.



Dipping in Kate Brook

A family event at Millstream Meadow bridge on

Saturday May 15th

Come and discover what lives in Kate Brook!

Just drop in any time between 2 and 4 pm





ACTION FOR NATURE

Let it grow

Allow wildflowers to bloom and seed

Plant for pollinators

Plant flowers for our bees, butterflies and others

Plant trees

For wildlife and carbon capture

Pesticide free

Cut out, or at least reduce, pesticides

Go peat free

Conserve rare peat bogs, their wildlife and carbon

Dig a pond

Create a freshwater habitat

Provide shelter

for birds, bats, bugs, reptiles and mammals

Be connected

Make our gardens stepping stones to join up wildlife habitats

Reduce light

Draw curtains at night to help our bats

Use motion-activated lights, and only where they are really needed

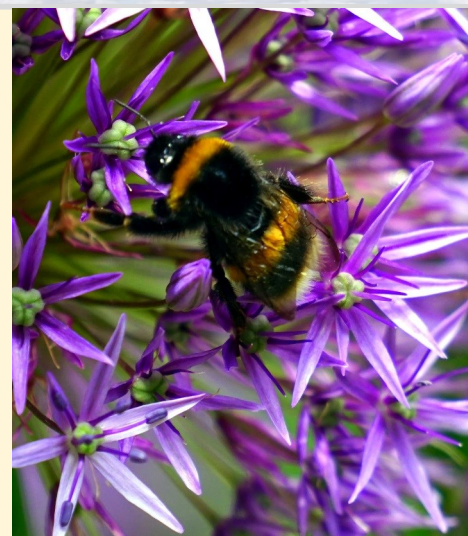
Greenwash, are we being conned?

As Spring is here and we begin to think about that visit to the garden centre, to put some colour into our gardens, we need to think carefully about what we are buying and whether it's really best for our gardens and for wildlife.

We all want to be 'green', but it's so confusing and so difficult to know if we are making the right choices. From food to loo rolls, there is a whole load of '**GREENWASH**'! It's a minefield out there.

As regards our gardens, there are people offering to make our lawns 'green' by using eco-friendly pesticides. What?!

Pesticides are not eco-friendly in any form.



One large multinational claims on TV to have hundreds of bee-friendly plants. Very few of the plants they stock are actually favoured by bees. There are, however, some amazing plants that are of a huge benefit to our invertebrates and dozens of online sites that will tell us which are best for a particular species.

We have compiled a list of our '**Top Ten Plants**' to bring colour, beauty, and scent to your garden. You can find this list on our website:

<https://www.chudleighwild.org/team-1>

Top ten plants for wildlife

AND they are all native plants.

Imported plants inevitably bring with them the risk of introducing invasive aliens. I spoke with a ecological consultant who had studied snails throughout his career. He no longer tries to identify them, as there are so many alien species brought in on imported plants that it's an impossible task. Snails are just one group of species, but many others are dangerously upsetting our ecosystems and destroying those native species that are so important. **We need to be very careful.**

Having a beautiful garden is such a rewarding thing, but having it buzzing with the sound of bees and watching the butterflies, hoverflies, moths, ladybirds, dragonflies and other insects feeding, egg laying, hatching out and eating each other is just amazing!

Sue Smallshire



What is plogging?

A new scheme combining jogging and picking up rubbish comes to the UK.

A student who started a global 'plogging' movement, which sees people jog and pick up litter, has brought his scheme to Britain. Vivek Gurav, 26, began his project in India back in 2014 when he was only 19 and now has more than 10,000 volunteers around the world.



Vivek, who came to Bristol last September to study for a masters degree in Environmental Policy and Management, says:

"Ploggers will be an important step towards helping citizens act locally for a global impact. A climate crisis has already hit us and it's time to start acting now. Let's join communities acting to fight climate change and make conscious choices. Communities can bring a change in mind-set, and this is crucial for a mass awakening towards climate change and to make governments worldwide act now."



Could Chudleigh have its own team of Ploggers?

Chudleigh Wild throws out a challenge to our more athletic residents to GET PLOGGING. We will provide the pickers and bags, if you can provide the stamina and enthusiasm. It could be fun!

If you feel you could organise a group or become a Plogger, please contact Sue:

info.chudleighwild@gmail.com



River Teign Restoration Project

Chudleigh's four Wildlife Wardens, Vicci Camm, Tessa Frost, Sue Smallshire and Peter Warn, along with our Chair, Dave Smallshire, have now completed their training and will be looking for 'Riverflies' on our stretch of the River Teign and on the Kate Brook. 'Riverflies' comprise a suite of common and easily-identifiable creatures that provide an excellent indicator of water quality and will flag up any polluted areas.

Like to get involved?

We will be monitoring watercourses regularly, but would like your help to record a broader range of wetland species. Please send us any sightings from the River Teign (within the Parish) and the Kate Brook of:

BIRDS - Dipper, Grey Wagtail, Kingfisher, Goosander and Mandarin Duck.

MAMMALS - Otter* spraints (or Otter, if you are lucky enough to see one).

FISH - Trout, Bullhead, Eel or any others you may recognise.

DRAGONFLIES - Beautiful Demoiselle.

A record, if it is to be really useful, should tell us:

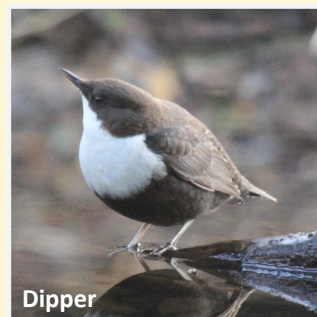
1. **WHAT** - what you saw and how many you saw.
2. **WHERE** - where you saw it. A grid reference would be great - you can get this from an app on your phone. If not, an accurate description of where you were.
3. **WHO** - your name.
4. **WHEN** - the date that you saw it.

All records will be submitted to the Devon Biodiversity Records Centre and Devon Birds, who maintain an invaluable wildlife database. This information helps to inform us about species distribution and decline and can be used by local authorities and ecological consultants looking at planning applications.

***If you are interested in helping us to carry out Otter surveys, please get in touch. We will provide training if you need it.**

Contact:

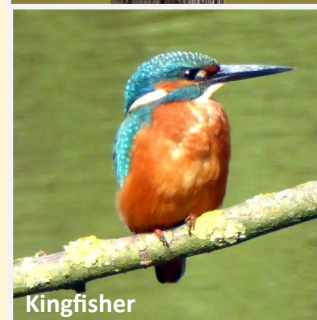
info.chudleighwild@gmail.com



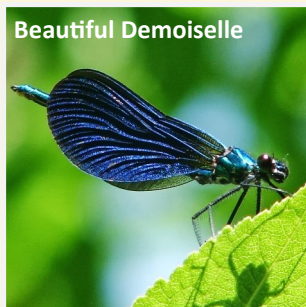
Dipper



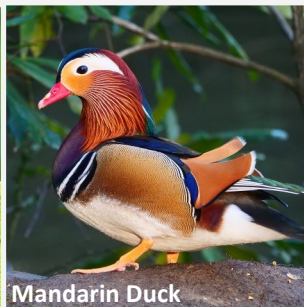
Grey Wagtail



Kingfisher



Beautiful Demoiselle



Mandarin Duck



Goosanders (male + female)





How can you help?

We have earmarked various verges and areas of grassland across town as areas where we can encourage nectar-rich plants and wildflowers that are so important to our bees and butterflies. These are developing well, but they need to be managed in order for the flowers to grow and thrive.

Where are these areas?

Culver Green, Lawn Drive and the **Bat Garden** all need regular maintenance.

The **Old Boule Piste** on Culver Green has been planted with wildflowers.

The beds in **Lawn Drive** need to be managed. The pegged off areas are now providing a wealth of food for our insects, but the other areas, which are mown four times a year, need to be raked after each mowing and the grass disposed of.

The beds in the **Bat Garden**, at the bottom of Rock Road, also need regular management.

Interested in becoming an Orchid Counter?

The area by the slip road at **Harcombe** is a **Devon Special Verge** and managed for its orchids. These include Greater Butterfly, Common Spotted and Bee Orchids as well as other important plants. We do regular orchid counts, starting in May. **We need to train more orchid counters**, in order to ensure these counts continue into the future.

Our first count will be on

Thursday May 5th at 5.30pm.

Meet by Holman's Wood entrance

For further information or to volunteer

email: info.chudleighwild@gmail.com



Greater Butterfly Orchid



Lawn Drive wildflower beds



The Oldway Challenge



At the top corner Oldway is a paved area, which, although an unlikely spot, offers some opportunity for unusual wildlife. The wall behind is covered with Ivy and at the base is an unusual parasitic plant: Ivy Broomrape. Broomrapes are without chlorophyll and so totally dependent on their host plant, which in this case is Ivy. This Broomrape grows to about 60cm with stems in shades of brown and purple, sometimes yellow; the dead stems remain for months after flowering.

The Ivy also provides berries for birds and its flowers are a source of nectar for bees, perhaps including the Ivy Bee.

Since 2014 the Ivy Bee has colonised much of southern Britain. It is a species of **mining bee** that likes to burrow in loose sandy soil. Often found on south-facing banks with sparse or limited vegetation, nesting sites have been reported at allotment plots and the lawns of public parks. They are **solitary bees** (as opposed to bees with queens, drones and workers living in colonies) and emerge in mid- to late summer to feed on the Ivy flowers. Ivy Bees and many other insects can still be found nectaring at the flowers as late as November.



When we discovered this interesting spot a couple of years ago, we decided that it would be a good area to enhance as a feature where people could sit and watch the wildlife. It has also been chosen as a site for one of the rubbing posts on our new nature trail and Chudleigh Town Council has kindly offered to provide a seat. We plan to dig up some of the slabs and plant nectar-rich flowers and to install a small interpretation board.

WE NEED YOUR HELP

We are looking for people to take on the challenge of turning this into a beautiful nature corner.

If you feel you could organise a group of friends/neighbours to taken up the challenge, or would just like to help, please contact:

info.chudleighwild@gmail.com

Chudleigh Wild will provide any plants, tools etc. you might need.





AM I DOING ENOUGH ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE? by Amanda Cole



I counted at least 10 articles on climate change in one recent edition of the local paper. And that was without including those that referred to climate change within a wider piece. This suggests we really don't need any more information about climate change and the devastating impacts it will have.

So why do I, as a psychologist, think there is room for another article? Psychologists have something to offer because we spend time trying to understand and make sense of human behaviour. We know around 80% of people are concerned about climate change. And yet, an average of only 10% of us is doing anything effective about it.

One reason for this is that we are much more motivated to do things that are likely to make us feel good than stay with bad feelings. Knowing that climate change is happening, and that governments aren't doing enough about it is bound to make us feel bad. In response, most of us either stop thinking about it, reassure ourselves we are doing all we can, such as recycling and reducing waste (and that this is effective and will reduce our carbon footprint), or believe that others (governments, businesses) are solely responsible for the solutions.

Unfortunately, that leaves us in the difficult position of being bombarded with facts about climate change, and experiencing the effects, like huge storms and flooding, but believing there is nothing more we can do about it. Understandably, and quite reasonably, this can lead us to feel anxious, hopeless, and sometimes depressed. There is evidence this is happening, especially, but not exclusively, among young people.

Is there a solution? Yes, more than one. For a start, we know that doing something new about climate change will lessen the emotional effects of doing nothing. Even more importantly, we are more likely to change our behaviour if we choose to do so rather than being told to by someone else. We are also more likely to stick with a change if we choose it ourselves.

Our choices need to fit with our circumstances, our lifestyles, and our values. We need to feel good about helping to make a difference, rather than seeing changes we make as a sacrifice or a loss of something. Feeling good makes it more likely we will go on to choose something else to change. It doesn't matter if changes we make are big ones (switching to an electric car, investing in a heat pump) or small ones (driving less and more slowly, buying unpackaged and local food). What matters is that it makes us feel good.

Making changes can lead to unintended positive consequences, like being fitter or saving money. You may have experienced this when you changed your behaviour due to the pandemic. It may seem that being asked to think about the climate is yet more unwelcome pressure in tough times. And yet the things we can do to help generally tend to make the cost of living less, and will keep us healthier and happier. And it's great to know for the future that renewable energy is now less expensive than energy generated from coal and gas.

Another powerful point is that we sometimes can't see or measure the impact we are making, so we may go back to old habits. However, there is evidence from social scientists that our communities and our culture are changing as we move towards a more sustainable future. Changes in society take time to document so don't imagine your little bit is not making a difference. It is subtle, but just below the surface, our thinking, our behaviour and our values are shifting. We are moving towards 'positive tipping points' where ideas like eating fewer meat meals or flying less are becoming normal instead of 'alternative'. These tipping points can be hugely influential on businesses and politicians, as well as on more vulnerable communities and societies where the freedom to choose is more limited.

So here is the main message. Don't do nothing. Choose something you really WANT to change. And talk to people about it. Climate change won't wait for us. The time to act is NOW.

Amanda Cole is a member of ACT, Action on Climate in Teignbridge

Chair's Chat

In the last Newsletter I gave the news that the White-tailed Eagle that had flown over Chudleigh last winter had been found dead in Dorset on 27 January. Post mortem and toxicology testing found that the bird died from brodifacoum poisoning. Brodifacoum is a highly toxic anticoagulant rodenticide that causes internal haemorrhaging. The bird's liver contained approximately seven times the amount of brodifacoum required to kill a bird of that size. The satellite data indicated that it was otherwise healthy, but deteriorated and died over a period of several days. Here's a picture of 'G461' in his full glory.

Brodifacoum poses a serious threat to birds of prey as it accumulates in the food chain and can cause secondary poisoning as a result of illegal misuse. Birds like Kestrel and Barn Owl can die as a result of eating poisoned dead or dying rats that are not collected and disposed of, as is required of users – I'm convinced that the current scarcity of Kestrel in Chudleigh is likely down to rodenticides. However, larger raptors, like eagles, Buzzard and Red Kite, are also known to have died in

the UK after eating carrion laced with brodifacoum that gamekeepers and sheep farmers have put out to kill foxes and corvids. Sadly, such pesticide abuse is still unacceptably widespread, both in the UK and elsewhere around the world. We poison enough of our environment as a by-product of our activities, without having this level of deliberate poisoning.



Despite some fine weather in March spring seems to have come rather slowly, at least in terms of migrant birds. The first Swallow was seen on 10 April, although they seem very scarce in Devon still – and yet it's not long before the Swifts should be back in town (2-3 May is typical). A Tree Pipit was singing in the Parish at the edge of Ideford Common on the 15th. Slow-worms have been warming up under 'refugia' – Sue and I saw 14 in the Batfields on the 16th, along with a Grass Snake, our first record there; Orange-tip and Dormouse were also seen. Two Red Kites were seen near Ugbrooke on 3 April. As usual, Dipper and Grey Wagtail have been seen along Kate Brook, but a pair of Mandarin Ducks were a surprise on 4 April; soon afterwards, Moorhens were nest-building at a nearby pond. A few Holly Blues have been seen since 30 March, but most remarkably, a very early Brown Argus butterfly appeared in a garden close to the town centre on 17 April.

Finally, everyone is encouraged to submit their wildlife sightings into iRecord (<https://irecord.org.uk/>), which is run by the national Biological Records Centre. From there they will be available to the Devon Biodiversity Records Centre, our Wildlife Wardens and others. Please make the most of your 'citizen science' and send in your records!

Dave Smallshire

