

Our aims are to:

Share knowledge on 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.

Work together and with others to conserve existing wildlife and enhance our local habitats, features and species populations.

Record what we have, holding and sharing our wildlife records with others.

Advise groups and individuals on biodiversity.

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 for any of the tasks listed on page 2, please contact:

Tessa Frost:

rat.frost@gmail.com

Forthcoming Events:

Wednesday 23rd of January - Hedge-laying day - 10.30-4pm

Find out how to lay a hedge at Deer Park Farm, Chudleigh,

Join Devon Wildlife Trust volunteers on this practical hedge-laying task, learn a traditional skill and find out more about the Greater Horseshoe Bats that live around Chudleigh. Booking essential as places are limited. email bats@devonwildlifetrust.org. Strong footwear and suitable clothing are advised as there will be rough ground and steep fields. Bring a packed lunch. Tea and coffee provided.

At Deer Park Farm we carry out habitat management with Greater Horseshoe Bats and other wildlife in mind. The hedge that will be laid has a very special story! Back in the 1960s the owners of the farm bought a bulldozer. No-one knows why the farmer decided to push the hedge out, but he did, and for over 30 years a fence was used to divide the fields; the sheep and cattle had no protection from wind, rain or scorching sun and the bats lost an important landmark and travel route.

In the 1990s, government grants were introduced so that Dartmoor farmers could be paid to look after their habitats better, and the new farmer joined the scheme. When his wife became very ill, he would walk over to the hedge, rebuild a bit - using a spade, not a bulldozer- and then pop back to look after her. It was a labour of love that he completed before she died. He collected saplings from around the farm and planted the new hedge bank with a wide variety of local species. Now, 20 years later, it is a beautiful wildlife hedge, providing shelter for hundreds of species of plants and animals - and it is ready to be laid for the first time.

If you have booked in, meet at Deer Park Farm at 10.30am. Travel west out of Chudleigh, cross the A38 bridge and turn right onto the B3193 Teign Valley Road. Take the 1st right for Trusham; cross the R. Teign and the disused railway bridge, then IMMEDIATELY turn right. Follow the lane up the hill till you see double gates on your left with a Deer Park Farm sign. Drive down to the farm. Car-share if you can!

Saturday March 2nd - Bat Trail Walk - 9.30am - 12.30pm

Enjoy a morning walk along the bat trail with the 'Greater Horseshoe Bat Project'. Along this 4.5 mile walk you will see beautiful countryside and amazing bat habitats and learn how you can help the bats by taking simple steps in your garden. **Meet outside Chudleigh Town Hall**

Booking required: email: bats@devonwildlifetrust.org - 01392 260849





**March 29th: 'Wildlife in Your Garden' - Dave Smallshire
7.30pm at Chudleigh Town Hall**

Gardens can host literally thousands of species, but most of these are tiny and obscure, and do not necessarily benefit from our gardening attempts. Dave will illustrate and talk about many of the more obvious – and some of the less obvious – animals and plants that live in our gardens, their ecology and how they can be encouraged to cohabit. Much of Dave's experience comes from his own Chudleigh garden, from observations over the last 30 years.

March 30th: Guided walk to Riding Park, Ugbrook at 10.00 - 12.30

Dave Smallshire will lead this walk to find spring flowers and to learn to recognise bird song as an aid to finding our resident



songbirds. Among the birds we hope to encounter are Great Spotted Woodpecker, Nuthatch, Treecreeper, Marsh Tit and Goldcrest. Families are welcome. Bring boots/wellies and binoculars if you have them.

Meet at the 'Bat Garden' above Glen Cottage, Rock Road, Chudleigh, TQ13 0JJ
NO DOGS on this occasion please.



Volunteering opportunities - further dates and details on page 3

Verge gardening: There are plans to create beds for wild flowers in the wider verges along Lawn Drive. This will involve digging, planting and caring for these areas, which will be highly beneficial to wildlife.

Litter picking: We regularly tidy and remove litter from various public areas in Chudleigh and help is always welcome.

ChudleighWild Allotment: We have acquired a plot at the allotments on New Exeter Street. We will be preparing the site to grow some community crops as well as wild flowers to plant around the town and for people to put in their gardens.

Bat garden: There are always jobs in the bat garden and other enhanced areas in the town for anyone who likes gardening,

Oldway Bat Fields: Now owned by Devon Wildlife Trust, these need managing as well as grazing for Greater Horseshoe Bats. Grazing is in hand but help with habitat management would be most welcome.





Plea for Plants

Following the success of the Bat Garden and the Old Boule Piste, Chudleigh Town Council has agreed to ChudleighWild volunteers creating a wildlife flower garden on Lawn Drive. We are aiming for a mix of wildlife-friendly garden plants and wildflowers, so there will be plenty of pollen and nectar for insects and plenty of colour for people to enjoy.

As before we are asking local people for donations from their gardens. Have you got any plants that are really popular with bees, butterflies or other wildlife? Or attractive, easy to grow, single-flowered plants? (Insects find the nectar very difficult to reach in double-flowers.) We are hoping mainly for herbaceous perennials and self-seeding annuals. The first planting out session will be on Sunday 3rd March, 10.30 - 12.30.

If you can spare a few roots, cuttings or seeds, do please let us know. **Ring Mary on 01626 852707 or Tess on 01626 852551.** We look forward to hearing from you!

Tree Guard De-Guard

A group of local school kids recently looked like they had been pulled through a hedge backwards: which they had! Because instead of doing homework, they were doing hard labour in the thorny hedges of the Chudleigh Bat Reserve.

At Devon Wildlife Trust's Oldway Nature Reserve new hedges were planted 5 years ago. Like all new hedges, plastic guards were put around the young trees to protect them in their early years. As all trees do, they grew, but the guards didn't grow with them and by this time are starting to strangle them.

On the 17th November 12-year-olds Eliya, Emma, Freya and Steph spent hours clearing a whole hedge of tree guards. But they decided they wanted to do even more and all got sponsored to crawl through the bramble bushes. They raised a staggering £223.00 for the ongoing management of the reserve!

Then on the 4th January they did it again, this time with more friends (12-year-old Amy, and 9-year-olds Jessie and Keiran). They even let some adults help and between them cleared another hedge and a half. And guess what... they're not done yet!

On Sunday 3rd February, from 10.30 to 12.30, there will be a **community work party** at the reserve, to try to clear the rest of the tree guards away and do a range of other jobs, including lots of bramble snipping. Everyone is welcome, young or old, but do please ring beforehand to let us know you're coming (**call Mary on 01626 852707**). Wear tough old clothes, boots and gardening gloves. Please bring secateurs or loppers if you have them.

If you don't know the Bat Reserve, walk down Oldway, past Lower Trindle Close, and the reserve entrance is the first field gate on your left. We look forward to seeing you there.

To volunteer for any of the tasks listed above please contact:

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