

G-UP NEWS

JUNE 2021



GREENER UGBOROUGH PARISH

A community where it's easy to live sustainably



Hello G-UP -

There are a few interesting events and opportunities coming up locally (and online) which we wanted to share here...Enjoy!

Open Meadows this Sunday 13th June 11am-3pm - with two meadows at Moorhaven, including the new cemetery meadow spearheaded by Jackie Andrade, being open to the public. This is just a 30 min walk from Ugborough Village. If driving (and coming from Bittaford direction) you can park at Ease Manage ltd which is the turning before the main Moorhaven drive to explore and see what's underway.

A new **woodland creation fund** has just opened - this is for owner occupiers, tenants, landlords, licensors who have full management control of land. Any interested landowners or land tenants can find out more here:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/england-woodland-creation-offer>

Wild About Devon is a brand-new network and support framework specially designed to help communities and parish & town councils to take action for wildlife.

This might be of particular interest to those of you who have recently been involved in our Wildlife and Biodiversity working group conversations or the Parish Councillors amongst us... The network launch is happening online on **Monday 28th June, 7:00 - 8:30pm**. You can find out more and sign up here: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/wild-about-devon-launch-tickets-157807389149>

Sustainable Earth 2021: Climate Emergency the Race to Net Zero Online Forum: 24-25 June 2021 A (free) online forum with a variety of events bringing together researchers, businesses, NGOs, the public sector, community groups and individuals to tackle global and local challenges around the climate emergency. Registration required.

<https://www.plymouth.ac.uk/research/institutes/sustainable-earth/se21>

An ongoing research project happening in the AONB.

Our Imprint - how we are shaping the landscape is a study from the University of Bologna in cooperation with University of Plymouth. In short, the project examines how rural development has shaped our landscape over time and our perception of 'countryside'. South Devon is one of several cases studies around Europe including Gotland in Sweden.

The project team say: We want to hear your thoughts about the South Devon AONB landscape. We are interested in how you use this protected landscape and what you appreciate and value about it. Share your thoughts in our short online survey here:

<https://plymouth.onlinesurveys.ac.uk/community-change-survey-south-devon>

For further info please contact the PhD researcher Hanna Elisabet Åberg from the University of Bologna hannaelisabet.aberg@unibo.it and for more background on the project you can watch this webtalk:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DgLB9RN1h-4>

We are still recycling crisp packets see below for full details



Please see the below call out from Ugborough Primary School.

If you are interested in helping please email direct to:
admin@ugborough-primary.devon.sch.uk

Dear Parents/Carers/Friends

We would like more adult support for our Forest School sessions.

If you would be interested in volunteering for a few hours each week, we would be most grateful. It will enable the children to have a wider range of opportunities during their outdoor learning.

A DBS certificate is required, and we can get this sorted through the school office.

We would appreciate help on a Monday afternoon, Tuesday afternoon and a Wednesday morning and afternoon. It would be most helpful if you could commit to help for the summer half term so we can plan in advance.

If you would like to/ are able to help, please email school admin and title the email Forest School Help.

What's happening in the Ugborough burial ground?

Greener Ugborough Parish's Wildlife and Biodiversity group has been thinking about how best to manage the burial ground for wildlife. An initial survey told us that the habitat is best described as 'rough grassland' with mostly Cocksfoot and False Oat grasses, covering approximately half an acre.

The site will be split into two sections. Two thirds will be managed by topping every two years building up a thick, matted, tussocky mix of grasses with a deep thatch. This provides an ideal habitat for Field Voles by providing cover for their tunnels and nest, which in turn supports owls and other birds of prey. A resident tawny owl has been caught on a wildlife camera in the burial ground already and a Buzzard is regularly seen circling overhead.

The remaining third will be managed more intensively for pollinators by encouraging a broader diversity of meadow grasses and flowers. In preparation, a team of volunteers raked dead grass, to make space for seeds to reach the soil. We will monitor what grows here over the summer, with a view to spreading 'green' seed rich hay from a local wildflower meadow in August.



Ugborough burial ground continued...

Saturday June 6th we conducted a more detailed survey of flora and fauna on the whole site. Footprint traps revealed evidence of hedgehog and small rodents. Pitfall traps that had been buried in the soil overnight were found to contain many 'creepy crawlies' that had fallen in. These included millipedes, true bugs, ants, harvestman, spiders, and beetles, which we then released. Sweep netting added more Beetles, Grasshoppers and Crickets to our list. All that we have recorded can be found on the i-Naturalist App in the Ugborough Wildlife Project.

We also identified a range of grasses including the aptly named, beautifully soft Meadow Foxtail, and other flowering plants. Later in the summer there will be lots of hogweed flowers which are brilliant for all sorts of insects, providing food until well into the autumn. There are also large patches of what we think is bird's foot trefoil, although it looks similar to other trefoils and medicks until it flowers. It has been estimated that 170 different species feed off bird's foot trefoil. The other interesting find was yellow rattle. Yellow rattle is loved by meadow-makers because it is a hemi-parasite, producing its own food through photosynthesis but also scrounging nutrients through the roots of the grass that it parasitises. It thins the grass enough to allow other flowers to germinate and reach the sunlight. It is also a favourite of bumblebees.

We have quite a few things planned for the future. We will be doing additional surveying later in the Summer, which will include trees and hedgerows. Invasive species will be tackled starting with Bracken bashing. We are making information signs to explain to visitors what we are doing. Also, we are hoping to borrow a moth trap and are very excited to see what we will catch.

Please get in touch if you would like to be involved.



More updates soon...

**Faith, Jane, Jackie, Vici,
Rowan, Ashley and Caroline**

The Steering Committee

G-UP has negotiated a different collecting scheme which will enable us to collect packets in exchange for funds - which will specifically go towards green initiatives / projects in Ugborough Primary school. So not only are you saving your packets from the black bin and preventing greenhouse gases via the incinerator, you are helping fund eco initiatives for local children.

There is no longer a public collection point in Ugborough - please collect and store your packets at home ready for an 'amnesty style' collection day when circumstances allow!

What can we accept?

We can only accept packets from POTATO crisps - any make, brand or size. But PLEASE NO POPCORN, PRETZELS, MINI-CHEDDARS, PORK SCRATCHINGS OR PEANUT BAGS...check on the ingredients list, if it says potato then it is a crisp!

However much the plastic may look the same - it either isn't, or for some other reason the recyclers don't want other types of bag! We are not in a position to argue, and we don't want other carefully collected and sorted bags to be rejected because of a rogue unsuitable specimen!

How to collect your packets

Fold about ten bags together in half and slide them into another bag (Walkers are the best as they are the strongest) then gather another ten, fold them in half as before and slide them in the other way. You should end up with a crisp packet 'brick'.

Please do not fold packets into little triangles or tie them in knots! And please be sure to empty the contents before folding - either into yourself or your child! Strangely (and slightly worryingly) they don't seem to go mouldy, but can be a little unpleasant to deal with - we find placing a weight on top of empty packets as you use them can help to flatten them ready for folding.

PLEASE COLLECT THESE AT HOME AND WHEN POSSIBLE WE WILL ARRANGE A LOCATION TO COLLECT THE BAGS TOGETHER TO BE TAKEN FOR RECYCLING - IF STORAGE CAUSES YOU PROBLEMS LET US KNOW WE MAY BE ABLE TO HELP.