

A Space for Nature

Our Blue Heart campaign in Trowbridge



Trowbridge
environmental community

About us

- Small community group
- Climate, biodiversity and waste reduction
- Education and awareness
- Positive practical action, demonstration and discussion
- Inspire the next generation
- Making Trowbridge a more resilient place for the future.



The Project

- Making space for nature in Trowbridge's gardens and public spaces.
- Rewilding Trowbridge garden by garden.
- Pots, planters and garden patches; size does not matter.



Aims and Objectives

We aim to:

- Improve green spaces to benefit mental health/well-being.
- Increase biodiversity and help reverse the decline in species and habitats.
- Help educate and raise awareness.

To do this we will:

- Give away blue hearts.
- Engage with residents on the importance of nature.
- Designate at least one Space for Nature in every Ward in Trowbridge.
- Sign up 400 residents and 5 businesses.



Local and National Blue Heart Campaigns

news
18th September 2019
The Blue Heart at Holy Trinity in Bradford on Avon means it is re-wilding
By Staff reporter



The rewilding area at Holy Trinity

Facebook Twitter LinkedIn YouTube Comment

Holy Trinity Church Bradford on Avon is trialling a rewilding scheme for part of the churchyard, after it recently produced a Churchyard Policy written by ecologists Ali and Dave Green, and Mike Fuller, a lepidopterist. The policy explains how to maintain and develop the churchyard as a real eco-resource to the community, in keeping with Holy Trinity's Eco Church status.

Wild about Melksham! Have your say on wildflower havens in Melksham

Story posted on August 14, 2019

WILDFLOWER havens have begun popping up around the town – and the community is being encouraged to nominate more areas to be preserved as spaces for wildflowers and insects to flourish.



As part of the 'Blue Campaign' – an initiative that is encouraging areas to be left to 'rewild' across Britain – wildflower areas have been created by the Melksham South West in Bloom team in the grounds of St Michael & All Angels' Church, Canon Square, and on Bath Road, at the entrance to Waitrose.

Separate to the 'Blue Campaign' movement, Wiltshire Council is also encouraging residents to nominate areas within the town and across the county to become wildflower havens.



Learning

Log in Register

Wiltshire church supports Rewilding

10 Sep, 2019 05:20 PM

Holy Trinity Bradford on Avon's new Churchyard Policy responds to the town council's recent Climate Emergency Meeting.

Benefice Eco Church Representative Jane Jones says:

"Holy Trinity Bradford on Avon has recently produced a Churchyard Policy, written by ecologists Ali and Dave Green with lepidopterist Mike Fuller, to encourage and explain how we can maintain and develop our churchyard as a real eco-resource to the community, in keeping with our Eco Church status.



"Currently a trial strip will be left unmown to encourage the wildflowers that have seeded here, and at the end of the year we will cordon off another area and leave the sward unmown until the high summer 2020, as a mini conservation area.

"We are hopeful that with the abundance of brambles here it will be an attractive area for butterflies and other insects, as well as small birds and mammals.

Prima campaign

Go wild in the garden!

Want to help save the bees, butterflies and hedgehogs – and have an easier life, too? Of course you do!

Sometimes it can feel that trying to save the planet is a huge and impossible task. But starting close to home is the way forward, says wildlife film producer and presenter Fergus Beeky. 'Small, local initiatives – even changing your back garden – can really make a difference,' he says. Shocked by the dramatic decline in our wildlife, Fergus launched the Blue Campaign to encourage us to 'rewild' our green spaces. 'Now, Prima has teamed up with the Blue Campaign to see how we can all help...'

WHAT IS THE BLUE CAMPAIGN?
It promotes the rewilding of gardens, parks, road verges and school grounds. 'Rewilding' simply means leaving the ground to go wild! It restores the natural habitat, attracting all sorts of insects, plants and animals.

HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?
Choose an area of your lawn or garden to not cut or weed until next winter. Let the grass grow naturally into a wild meadow. It doesn't matter how big or small your garden is, leaving part of it alone will help restore biodiversity across the country.

WON'T IT LOOK MESSY?
Yes, it might – but you're rewilding for nature, not for you! Over time, you'll see

new life appearing in your long grass. Look out for crickets, beetles, snails, butterflies and bees attracted by the wildflowers, and even hedgehogs.

BUT MY NEIGHBOURS MIGHT JUST THINK I'M LAZY...
This is why the Blue Campaign suggests pinning a blue heart in the ground, made from recycled materials, to show that you are leaving the area wild deliberately.

WHERE CAN I GET A BLUE HEART?
You can get creative and make one or buy one from the Blue Campaign shop (shop.bluecampaignhub.com).

WHAT IF I DON'T HAVE A GARDEN?
It doesn't matter! Leave a window box to go wild, or why not lobby your council to stop cutting highways and verges unnecessarily next summer?

Knit a hedgehog for charity

Last month, we told you how we've teamed up with the British Hedgehog Preservation Society to help save the hedgehog. As part of our campaign, we need all you fabulous knitters out there to create this cute toy from our exclusive hedgehog pattern, which you can find online at prima.co.uk/knit-hedgehog. Post your finished hedgehog to us at Prima Hedgehog, House of Heest, 30 Panton Street, London SW1Y 4AL. We'll then forward it to the charity to send out in return for a donation.

PRIMA.CO.UK | November 2019 | 81

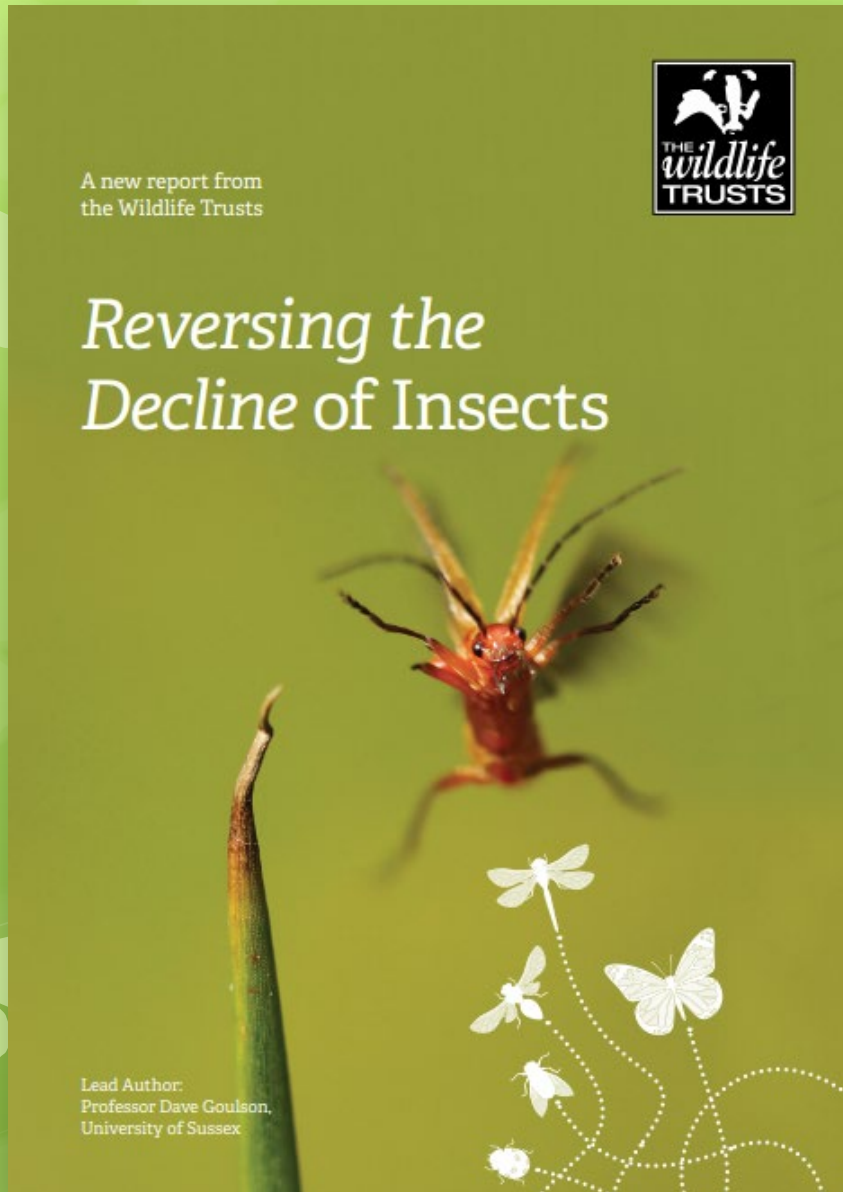


Nature makes us feel better – physically and mentally

- Lifts mood
- Lowers feelings of stress or anger
- Helps relaxation
- Improves physical health by getting us active
- Boosts confidence and self-esteem

www.mind.org.uk





Insects are important

- State of Nature Report
- Action for Insects
- Reversing the decline
- Creating corridors and stepping stones

Education and Engagement

- Balance between wildlife and recreation
- The decline in insect populations
- Grass cutting is important
- Grass left to grow will not help nature on its own
- Information boards, social media campaigns and stalls to help engage across all users.



Rewilding Trowbridge Garden by Garden

How residents can get involved

- Stop mowing #SayNoMow #NoMowMay
- Wild flowers
- Bird feeders
- Hedgehog highways
- Bug hotels
- Log piles



Removing barriers – so everyone can join

- Space
- Knowledge
- Physical resources
- Practical support



Message from a local couple

"In April we turned a corner of our garden into a **space for nature**. We planted native wild flower plants and seeds and stopped weeding (that was hard). We cut a hedgehog hole in our fence and made a wood pile."






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Timeline

January to March 2021

- Attend markets
- More blue hearts
- Liaise with councils and businesses

April 2021

- Presentation and workshop
- #SayNoMow #NoMowMay #SpaceForNature



Timeline continued...

May to August 2021

- Engage with residents
- Resident surveys
- Soil samples

September 2021

- Cut and rake grass
- Refuge areas



Timeline continued...

October to November 2021

- Wildflower patch
- Prepare the ground
- Sow the seeds
- Mark out the area
- Erect signs

- Patience!
- Watch it grow the following year



Funding

- Materials
- Wildflower seeds
- Campaign launch
- Raising awareness and publicity
- Signage and information panel
- Professional advice



Thank you!