

Diary Dates

Seed Swap - March 7
Make Seed Bombs - March 21
Plant a Sunflower - April 4
Plant Swap - April 18
Bug Detectives - May 2
Make a Bug House - May 16

Chudleigh Town Hall
12-2pm



Wild about Chudleigh

Wild about Chudleigh is a new initiative from Chudleigh Town Council and Chudleigh Wild to encourage biodiversity in our Town through re-naturing our green spaces and verges. The project is intending to improve plant and animal life in our parish by putting some of the maintenance of our verges and green spaces into the hands of local wildlife experts and residents. By doing so we will significantly improve our environment to benefit wildlife and people.

Over the next 12-18 month we aim to make areas more diverse, with a view to sustainability and increasing animal and plant life. But we also need to consider the spaces for a variety of users, as well as ease of upkeep. From creating species rich flower beds and sensory herb gardens, to seating areas and nature trails, our vision is to safeguard the spaces we have, not only for nature but for our own wellbeing.

To make this happen we're hoping to form 'neighbourhood hubs' - groups of people living near our parks, verges and open spaces. Along with volunteers from the Town Council, Chudleigh Wild & ACT (Action on Climate in Teignbridge), these hubs will meet for gardening and social sessions. Locations identified so far include: Culver Green, Millstream Meadow, Lears Lane, Oldway and Lawn Drive. If you live nearby and would like to get involved, please 'like' the facebook page #chudleighwild and email us to register your interest.

Free Events

We are hosting FREE nature focused activities and events, suitable for all ages, starting in Spring (see dates above). Events will be held every other Saturday from 12-2pm at the Town Hall, and advertised on social media and in notice boards around town.

Blue Campaign



<https://bluecampaignhub.com>

Look out for the BLUE Hearts popping up in Chudleigh. The Town Council are delighted to be part of the Blue Campaign, a nationally recognised symbol for restoring nature to our gardens and green spaces, a natural solution to climate change. This is a simple, no-cost way to help, and we're asking residents to join us. Choose an area of your lawn and don't cut it until winter - let the grass grow naturally. You'll find an abundance of new life will appear with the long grass, crickets, beetles, snails, wild flowers, birds, butterflies and hedgehogs.

We'd love to know how much wildlife you find, so please share your photos and stories with us - it only takes a small effort from everyone to make a huge difference.



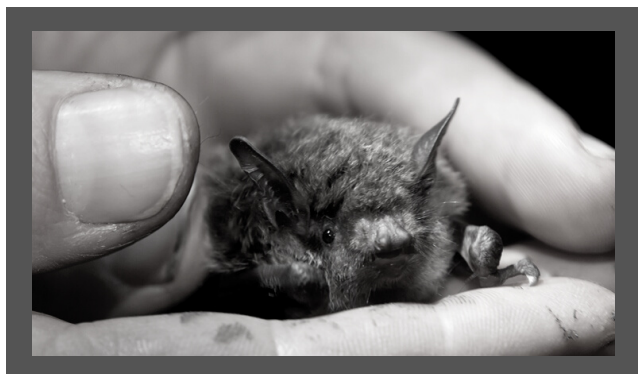
Facebook #chudleighwild | castlek@chudleigh-tc.gov.uk

Weed Spraying

The Town Council has agreed to stop weed spraying in its public spaces on a trial basis. As part of our Climate Emergency declaration we're committed to making sustainable choices, and the trial, which began this Winter, will help restore and improve biodiversity. To be successful we need the community to support it. We know that residents expect high standards of maintenance, and we need to ensure that pavements remain free of obstructions for people with sight or mobility issues.

So, how can you help...?

We're asking people to 'adopt' the pavement outside their properties, and spend a few hours a year removing weeds by hand. If the Trial is successful, we can hopefully wave goodbye to weed spraying forever.



Batty about Bats

Plants to attract insects

We have 12 of the 17 UK Bat species flying around Chudleigh: the most famous being the rare greater horseshoe of which we have about 100 that over-winter in caves at the Rock. They come out on warmer evenings, even in winter to feed on insects, but the most important time is the summer when the babies are born. This is when they have to grow very fast on the milk from their mothers so that they can survive hibernation in the winter.

It is very important that we keep dark flyways for the mums to find food, and that we grow plants that attract insects. The seed and plant swaps arranged will help you in this, and there's a bat friendly plant list on the Chudleigh Wild Facebook page and at the Town Hall. Chudleigh also has its very own Bat Sanctuary - South Devon Bat Care, a small rescue and rehabilitation facility for bats to recuperate before being released back into the wild.



Community Allotment

Ideas and volunteers welcome

We've created a Community Allotment at Exeter Road and welcome volunteers and community groups to get involved. We need help to create some raised beds, and an area that can be used as both a teaching tool and for enjoyment. All ideas are welcome - and we can provide tools.

Tree Nursery

Last September we held a Tree Seed Gathering event at Deer Park Farm. Native seeds were gathered and planted at the community allotment to grow trees for community planting. We're now looking for locations to plant small groups of trees to help improve the air quality and environment around us - we don't have any council owned land with enough space. If anyone can offer a site, please get in touch.

Allotments to Rent

Over the past few months volunteers have been busy clearing 4 neglected allotment plots at Exeter Road, saving £1000s in contractor costs. The plots will be available to rent later in the year. Please register your interest at the Town Hall.

Climate Action

In July 2019 the Town Council declared a Climate Emergency and Cllr Bellchambers has been working closely with ACT (Action on Climate in Teignbridge - www.actionclimateteignbridge.org). We now need people to get involved to help build a climate friendly community. If you have a passion for the environment and want to make a difference, please get in touch.

To Volunteer or know more...

If you would like to volunteer, or to find out about future events, please visit our Facebook pages [#chudleighwild](#), [#chudleightowncouncil](#) or email: castlek@chudleigh-tc.gov.uk