

Eynsham's Great Nature Recovery Project Workshop

Thank you for answering the call "Our local wildlife needs YOU!" I would also like to thank GreenTEA and the Eynsham Society for hosting this event and the Bartholomew Players for swapping halls this evening!

Welcome to the Launch of Eynsham's Great Nature Recovery Project from Long Mead Wildlife Site, GreenTEA, Eynsham Society, EPIC, the Morris and the Scouts. We are the local people who are getting this project going. We hope many more Eynsham groups and individuals will join us in driving this project forward.

Welcome also to neighbours from Cassington (hands up), Freeland, Cumnor, Stanton Harcourt, Long Hanborough, Church Hanborough, anywhere else? Some of you have offered to help us and some are interested in seeing how we are going about community project. We've discussed with some of you the idea of cross parish nature recovery and sharing skills between us....our idea is to see if we can grow the project for the whole of Oxfordshire...

Our intention in this project is to help our community respond to the current Climate Emergency by recovering the natural carbon sinks and extraordinary biodiversity, upon which we depend for life itself. These carbon sinks and biodiversity are all around us - in our village and surrounding countryside.

The idea is to bring together local knowledge and experience from all parts of our community. We believe that every person can contribute something. We all have the power to act. We can use our own gardens and community green spaces. And people in every generation have so much to contribute and to learn from each other and how to work together to best effect.

The project is at the ideas stage and we want to start with ideas we create together. Some of you may already have given us some through the satellite map in the Market Garden. Today, we have set up space for creative conversations on Wildflowers, Wildlife, Trees & Hedgerows, Ponds & Streams, Orchards and Vegetables and Tools for the job.

We haven't invited environmental organisations at this stage except if they live in the locality. So, at each table, there are local people with experience and a facilitator who will help to get conversations going. There are resources there and suggested ideas on what we might like to do, set up, help with. There are also suggested workshops and events. Please share your suggestions.

At the top of the hall and in the lobby, there are sheets for you to put your name by things you would like to do or attend. And a mailing list for you to complete with your area of interest. This mailing list is vital for the project. If we are to work together in 'collective hand-holding', as Catriona puts it, we need to be able to communicate with each other. If you don't have email, please give us your address instead as well as your phone number. We abide by the Data Protection law.

Towards the end, we will come together to hear from the conversation tables about the ideas bubbling up and open up a wider conversation for more bright ideas on how we might do things...

Finally, I will be taking photographs of this event, please let me know if you do not want to be in any photographs.

Over to Catriona and Kevan, the inspiration for this project.