



Sid Valley Environmental News



Welcome to this edition of Sid Valley Environmental News, a newsletter pulling together everybody who is interested in biodiversity, environment and green matters in the local area. Compiled by Denise Bickley, STC and EDDC councillor and chair of the Plastic Warriors, and member of the Sid Valley Biodiversity Group. If you have anything you wish to share, please email denisebickley@hotmail.com

Sidmouth Carbon Footprint Project

- The Carbon Savvy footprinting tool has been chosen as our preferred method of assessment.
- HOME - Carbon Savvy
- A questionnaire is being developed to work out how best to engage our community into taking action. The survey results will be aimed at shaping the next steps of the project. A trial of the questionnaire will take place at the Folk Festival.
- The project is aiming to have a website established in the near future.
- **Note** - The Science Festival has secured a talk from Tom Heap (BBC - Costing the Earth) who currently has a book out called "**39 Ways to Save the Planet**". The talk will take place on Saturday



October 15th as part of a Science Festival day which builds on our COP 26 event of last year. In addition, Sophie Pavelle will be talking about her book "Forget-me-not" : finding the forgotten species of climate change Britain". The day will also have a series of biodiversity stalls, promote the Carbon Savvy footprint tool, promote the infrared camera survey work and a pop-up climate pollution conversation stall in the town.

•**Note** - Sidmouth Climate Day 2022, Friday 16th September at 7pm in All Saints Church, All Saints Road, Sidmouth. Progress and plans for achieving net zero from Simon Jupp MP, Catherine Causley EDDC and Chris Lockyer Sidmouth Town Council. Interval with refreshments and an opportunity to test your carbon footprint. Free entry.

If you want to get more involved, organise or help run an event then please contact davebramley11@btinternet.com

Issue #4 - July 22

Diary dates - why not get involved:

16th September
Sidmouth Climate Day
7pm, All Saints Church

15th October
Talk from Tom Heap
(see Carbon Footprint Project) left

15th October
Science Festival/SVBG
Environment Day

(Every Friday at 10.30)
Guided walk with
Sidmouth Arboretum

Sidmouth Library

As the Summer Holidays are approaching, we would like to remind all organisations, parents and visitors that our Nature Explorer Backpacks are available to hire for FREE from the library. In the pack you will have a large magnifying glass, torch, magnifying pot and a ruler. Also topical identifying and spotter sheets. We ask for a deposit of £5 which is refunded in full when the backpack is

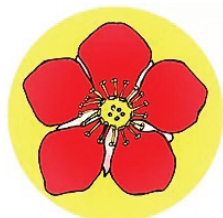
returned intact and unbroken.

The Sidmouth Library Nature Table is out in the library throughout the summer and additions to this are always welcome. Join us online on the Sidmouth library Virtual Nature Table on Facebook.

Our recently produced leaflet about plastic swaps is available to pick up in the library for free. We are happy to have additions and suggestions to add to the list.



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Sidmouth in Bloom:

This year's entry of Sidmouth into the RHS Britain in Bloom Campaign is in the tenth year of responsibility of the current voluntary committee led by Lynette Talbot, Peter Endersby and Cheryl Allen, supported by the 'Sidplanters' gardening team, the 'Sidcombers' beach force, the 'Sidforce' clean up group and the 'Sidsbashes' Himalayan Balsam workers. Behind these lie 51 years of experience of Town participation in the Regional and National Campaigns.

At the heart of this year's town entry is our aim to meet the challenges experienced during the Covid pandemic by local authorities, businesses, residents and visitors alike, of all ages, and build on the wellbeing gained by hands-on-work or visual experience. We note that our team of volunteers has increased.

We are glad that the use of our relocated polytunnel facilities enabled our team to carry on a greater amount of horticulture over the late Autumn into early Summer – recovery, over-wintering, pot recycling, cleaning, seeding, growing on and planting out. You will be visiting our Sensory Garden, new raised 'Jubilee' bedding, our 3D

features which include a new theme based on an International Children's Story together with a 'Climate Change' display bed, the new Radway seating area and Ham borders, as well as meeting other committed volunteer groups.

This Portfolio sets out Sidmouth's 2022 campaign to provide awareness of activities. Bullet point are given against each specific criteria contained in the three core sections of the RHS: Horticultural, Environmental and Community (**Marking Sheet here**). Statistics of our funding, income and expenditure are provided for our year round financial year 2021/2022 together with our budget for this year. Lists of sponsors and this year's event calendar are given as appendices. Additional marking criteria will also be experienced on tour and during the Presentation.

Sidmouth is a Regency coastal Town stretching West from an area of SSI at Muttons Moor pebble bed heath to the Eastern Natural England pastures of the International Donkey Sanctuary; from its World Heritage Jurassic coastline to the East Devon Area of Natural Beauty to the north. It is a place for all, open 365 days a year with popular businesses and hospitality venues. It has a rich and varied horticultural and historical Heritage. Our Community volunteers work together



with the Local Authorities and each other ensure that Sidmouth's special environment is protected.

Last Autumn SIB was privileged to take part in the South West in Bloom's display at Chelsea Flower Show, greatly aided by our community links with the London Royal Parks. Sidmouth's special horticulture was able to be showcased with our 'Diversity and Protection' garden and highlighted Horticultural excellence, Environmental care and Communities working together. We displayed two 3D floral Elephants in

a Tropical jungle setting highlighting the world wide plight of Elephants and their habitats and, by planting to the 'Elmer' story colours, acceptance of community diversity and difference.

We are very pleased to be able to showcase our Town to South West and UK Judges and offer our work in 2022 by this portfolio and the judging tours.

Lynette Talbot, Chair Sidmouth in Bloom

Please visit our SIB web site sidmouthinbloom.org or contact us info@sidmouthinbloom.org





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Sidmouth plastic Warriors

We are very interested in hearing from anyone with a bit of time to step forward to help with a massive project that we are going to take on, with support from Sidmouth Town Council. We will also be asking many of our town's organisations to support us. We would like us to start a '**Plastic Aware Sidmouth**' campaign and try to engage as many residents, businesses and tourists as possible to make us a truly green town, one that does not make token promises that are either unreachable or way too low-bar (as

we feel the 'Plastic Free' campaign is). We would like us to invest in a totally interactive website that publicises any great moves businesses make, shares good practices, provides real ideas for easy switches, raises money for town-wide initiatives, publicises the reasons we are striving to remove cigarette butts from our drains, rivers and the sea, co-ordinates art projects, helps sustainable tourism, comes up with ideas to reduce single use plastic everywhere it occurs. This is no small undertaking and it will need a committed group of individuals meeting regularly and being really organised, and taking

responsibility for small areas that together will make a massive issue.

If you are interested in being a part of this, please let me know. We will then have a meeting to get ourselves organised into a steering group and see how many organisations we can get on board. We've got lots of ideas but are hugely grateful for any more that will make a difference.

We at the Plastic Warriors all agree that we don't want to be doing beach cleans for the rest of our lives, when the majority of what we are picking up is newly littered plastic items from the land (and millions of cigarette butts).

We need to encourage a) everybody to pick up/bin their own rubbish, b) everybody to be careful about what we take to the beach or drop in the outdoors, but mainly c) business to not produce so much stuff!

So do let me know – email info@sidmouthplasticwarriors.org and I will collect any interested names and be in touch once we have an idea of numbers.

As ever, join in on [Facebook](#) or visit the website at sidmouthplasticwarriors.org



Climate change is a huge topic and one that I know people struggle with. We as individuals can feel too small to make enough of an impact: my putting solar PV on my roof hasn't decarbonised the energy grid for example. We are also bombarded with information and some of it is just greenwashing so it can be hard to know where to start or what your next step should be. Plus change is hard for us all and we all have limited time, resources and energy to take on

something else or try something new. Honestly I get it!

We are lucky in this district there are lots of great groups getting out and trying to affect change. Whether it's the Sidmouth Plastic Warriors or Sidmouth Repair Café or the wildflower and tree surveys being undertaken locally by the SVBG. Maybe this is the way to make a start and a measurable difference, maybe community can lead the way.

Building that engagement is hard, recently it was East Devon Together month with the aim of celebrating the volunteers who make our beautiful

bit of the country so lovely. However as with many environmental projects building engagement and participation was a challenge, it did not get the blaze of publicity I had hoped it would. I take faith in the fact that these types of projects take time to grow and build traction, from tiny acorns mighty oaks grow and all that.

However this month did give the chance to measure what was happening locally, all the events were planned to happen anyway, nothing was put on especially to be part of this month long celebration of our eco volunteers and groups.

My rough figures tell me

that in one fairly average month there were 23 events being run by local groups utilising the help and support of over 100 volunteers equally over 300 volunteer hours. If that isn't something to make you smile I don't know what is.

Being a passionate environmentalist can sometimes feel like shouting into the wind and you can feel quite alone and up against it but take a look around - we are not, the groundswell is building, keep the faith.

Catherine Causley
EDDC Climate Change Officer



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Friends of Glen Goyle – restoring Sidmouth’s “secret garden”

The Sid Valley has a new working party keen to help the environment.

Last year, the Friends of Glen Goyle (or, FOGG) was set up after conversations between members of the SVA’s history group and the Sid Valley Biodiversity Group about the heritage and nature along the Glen, Sidmouth’s “secret garden” tucked away in the centre of town.

The Vision Group for Sidmouth then formally set up FOGG, with a website and regular newsletter.

The VGS got in touch with Paul Fealey, EDDC Horticultural Technical Officer, who was really pleased that a group had come together to look to sensitively restoring the park to its former Victorian glory. And in June, the first working party gathered to hear what Paul had to say about the state of the plants and biodiversity along the stretch of the Glen – before they they set

to work clearing overgrown areas of tired ivy and brambles.

As Phil Lee, founding member of the Friends of Glen Goyle, says, “Paul gave us a good insight into pruning, what to remove, and what to keep, and what to cut back and by how much, describing the environment, and what we can grow in it. Very

interesting.”

The Friends of Glen Goyle meet every Thursday morning from 10am to 12.30 at the entrance on Manor Road. For more details and to join the mailing list, get in touch at <https://glengoyle.vgsidmouth.co.uk/contact-us>

Photo - clearly stolen from Archant



Sid Valley Biodiversity Group

The SVBG is very much about engaging with people about the delights of nature – and what we can do to enhance the Valley’s biodiversity.

It was very welcome, then, that the SVBG stand at the SeaFest last month was so busy – especially the table manned by Ed Dolphin and his wonderful display of seaweeds.

Ed has also been busy working with other groups, including walking with the U3A Nature Explorers adding to the herbaceous survey.

In the meantime, there’s been a lot of activity going on at South Combe Farm

on Salcombe Hill – with ongoing field trips and surveys of the meadows and woods, the rivulets and ponds. There is a regular plant ID session and plans to do some hedge-laying in the autumn – so do get in touch if you’d like to join any of the activities on the Farm.

As for what we can do in our own back gardens, it’s very much about us noticing what we already have and leaving a small

patch to nature, rather than needing to embark on ‘big projects’. Indeed, it’s very much about “lots of people doing little things”.

Finally, the SVBG would like to thank the STC Environment Cttee for the generous grants which will greatly help its work over the coming months.

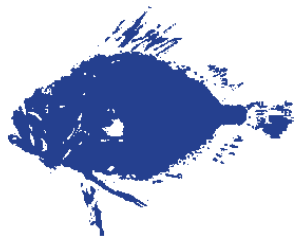
Join in by visiting sidvalleybiodiversity.org.uk





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SIDMOUTH SEA FEST



Sidmouth Sea Fest 2022 with its theme Kelp Our Oceans was a great success thanks to the hard work of many volunteers and an array of very proactive community groups. Sea Fest has led the way in being a single use plastics free festival and our play beach has the underlying message encouraging people to take care of the planet in a fun way.

The 2022 theme came out of Sidmouth Coastal Community Hubs' continued vision to connect people with the sea and coast and our environmental activism in a small way through encouraging people to think about stewardship of the sea and coast to conserve and preserve the

sea as our playground, and to encourage a sustainable and responsible proactive approach whether through individual or collective action.

There is much still to learn about kelp forests and seagrass meadows and the planting and management of them to protect and promote biodiversity and whilst there are a number of research projects around the country – we know it is a very specialist area requiring specialist skills to create protected areas. But this is something which is a long term goal of ours to perhaps create a partnership that brings together passion, interest and skills to create a protected area off Sidmouth and take action



as a collaborative action to meet the cop 26 goals and linking to goals such as that of the World Oceans Day – 30 x 30 protect 30% of our oceans by 2030. We created Sheheweel – the friendly kelp monster to raise awareness and decorated the site with kelp installations.

Sea Fest is very much a shared platform – a community offer – to have fun, get together, connect, network, showcase the amazing local groups we have and to network.

SCCH takes a proactive approach to using art and crafts to engage children, young people and families through hands on activities to kickstart conversations, learn new facts, think and connect with what we are eating, using in our households etc to raise awareness and stimulate shifts in behaviour and generate a sense of shared

responsibility.

The feedback from those who experienced the day has been so positive SCCH would like to extend their thanks to everyone who contributed. Finally we hope you have seen our latest artwork installation at Sidmouth Wallspace – Sidmouth's only outdoor gallery at the Ham carpark, with a vibrant street art piece called Nature Overcomes/Kelp Our Oceans... by artist Steve McCracken.

Photos - Sarah Hall

