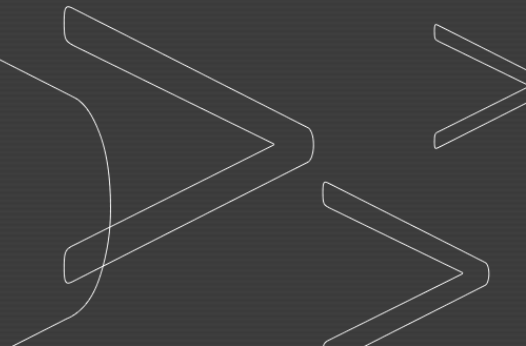




# Greener Ugborough Parish (G-UP)

PC Presentation 5<sup>th</sup> May 2021



# What is G-Up?

Formed in Autumn 2019, our local sustainability group started on a **notice board at USS** with a brainstorm of 'sustainability projects' that could be beneficial here. A diversity of residents from across the Parish (with a diversity of perspectives and political persuasions to match) were soon meeting to thrash out what exactly 'sustainability' meant, what we could do at a local level to offset the Climate Crisis and support our eco systems, what we should call ourselves and how *G-UP* should be structured.

With a focus on inclusivity we chose to be apolitical and, prioritizing engagement, we hosted a variety of **free public talks**: How to Reduce your Carbon Footprint; Going Zero Waste; The Climate Crisis...

We launched an ambitious programme - with the support of David Roe - to help 15 households **reduce their carbon footprint by 25%** in 5 years.

We got our hands dirty clearing swathes of the invasive **Himalayan Balsam** and also undertaking **tree planting** – involving Ugborough Primary School to work with the pupils to do so.





Meanwhile, we cohered our views to draw up a **Mission statement** - to clarify our objectives, help determine which of our many project ideas to prioritize and focus our activities. We were just at the point of structuring ourselves in to sub groups when the pandemic arrived and activities ceased.

Over the past 12 months we have done our best to maintain communication and hold on to the momentum built, with Parishioners on our email list.

A hugely constructive development has been the formation of the **G-UP Steering Group** last autumn. This comprises myself, Jackie Andrade, Jane Johns, Rowan Martin, Ashley Todd, Vici Hemming, Caroline Martin as well as Eleanor Andrade who is our 'youth consultant'.

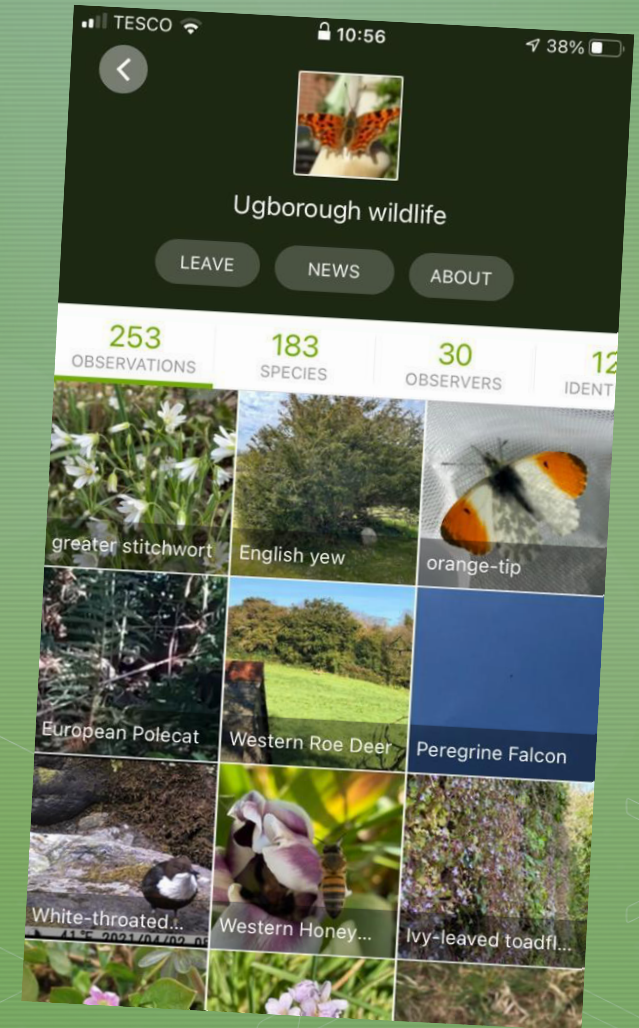
We have focused on information sharing particularly via our e-news letters and sharing learning with other regional sustainability groups. In terms of our **Waste and Recycling** strand, we have established collection **schemes** for dental waste, writing instruments, stamps, candle wax - and the biggest strand (via Terracycle) for crisp packets, which will eventually produce funds to go specifically towards green initiatives (such as Forest School) in Ugborough Primary. With thanks to the PC there is also now **litter picking equipment** available.





# Wildlife and Biodiversity Group

- With the onset of spring and the development of a CV vaccine, the SG identified the Wildlife and Biodiversity strand as the most viable and impactful to revisit - so set about launching a Working Group to spearhead activities in this area as restrictions eased.
- An overview of the Wildlife and Biodiversity group's live projects/strands:
- **Restoration of public land to wildflower areas** to assist our pollinators. This will involve the monitoring of indicator species at key sites so as to on e.g. recording butterfly species and abundance. Main sites we are focussing on are **Burial Ground** and Seldon's Close area.
- **Development of a Parish species inventory.** Primarily using **iNaturalist App**
- **Parish habitat mapping.** With support of Ecology graduate Joe Ross
- An active **Wildlife ID WhatsApp group**





- Promotion of **national citizen science biomonitoring initiatives** that can help **monitor the wildlife in our parish** throughout the community.
- Overhauling the green area in **Ugborough Play park** to make more of the space alongside the new play equipment.
- **Tree planting – working with the school to do so**

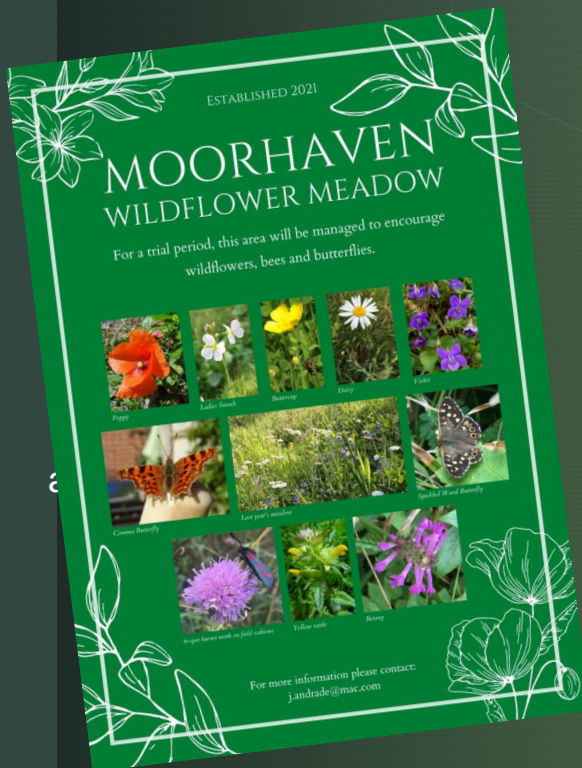
And there are other off-shoots underway such as:

Graham Gilbert's **hedge laying group initiative**



St Peter's taking the initiative to leave suitable of the Church yard unmown.

And Jackie Andrade developing a sizeable meadow Moorhaven.





# Sharing skills and new learning opportunities

All of the above focuses on local skills, taking positive action and shared learning. It's hoped that these interrelated activities will:

- Increase knowledge of our wildlife and biodiversity among parishioners – particularly younger age groups
- Increase engagement in G-UP
- Increase the number of Parish biodiversity records and improve the availability of this information
- Establish monitoring for key species such as indicator species or high conservation value species, to monitor changes in the Parish over time
- Establish baselines, so that we can determine the impact of our interventions as time goes on

All of course with a view to increasing biodiversity/helping our eco systems

Meanwhile, in light of the need for a lower carbon community and safer, more accessible roads we have fed in PL:21 Transition Town Initiative's Ivybridge Street Design Strategy which could positively impact upon many well used routes in and around the Parish. The Johns family even cleared the verges under the A38 bridge so as to create safe pedestrian access along this route, and once capacity allows, the SG should like to prioritize action under our Mobility and Transport strand.



# Local Connectivity and Moving Forward

Our Steering Group is well connected and members sit on the **following groups**:

- South Brent Zero Carbon Working Group
- Sustainable South Hams
- South Hams District Council Community Forum
- We are also well networked with Transition Town PL:21 who have been hugely supportive.

We would like to thank the Parish Council for supporting some of our initiatives so far and look forward to their continued support as we endeavour to make life in Ugborough Parish more sustainable and kinder to the environment.

Now to the locked up toilets in Bittaford and Ugborough. We know that negotiations here are delicate but we are very keen to adopt these buildings for continued use by the community. We would like to ask if there is anything we can do as residents and as an organisation to help make this happen.

Finally, we would like to ask the council to lobby on our behalf for a temporary speed limit reduction on the B3213. Our individual approaches to Councillor Hosking have met with no success, on the grounds that it is more important for motorists to be able to travel fast to the eastbound A38 than it is for other road users to be able to travel safely on that route. There is only a short stretch left with a 60 mph limit and we are asking for that to be reduced to 40 until the new cycle path is built.