

BRIXTON BEE WILD GROUP

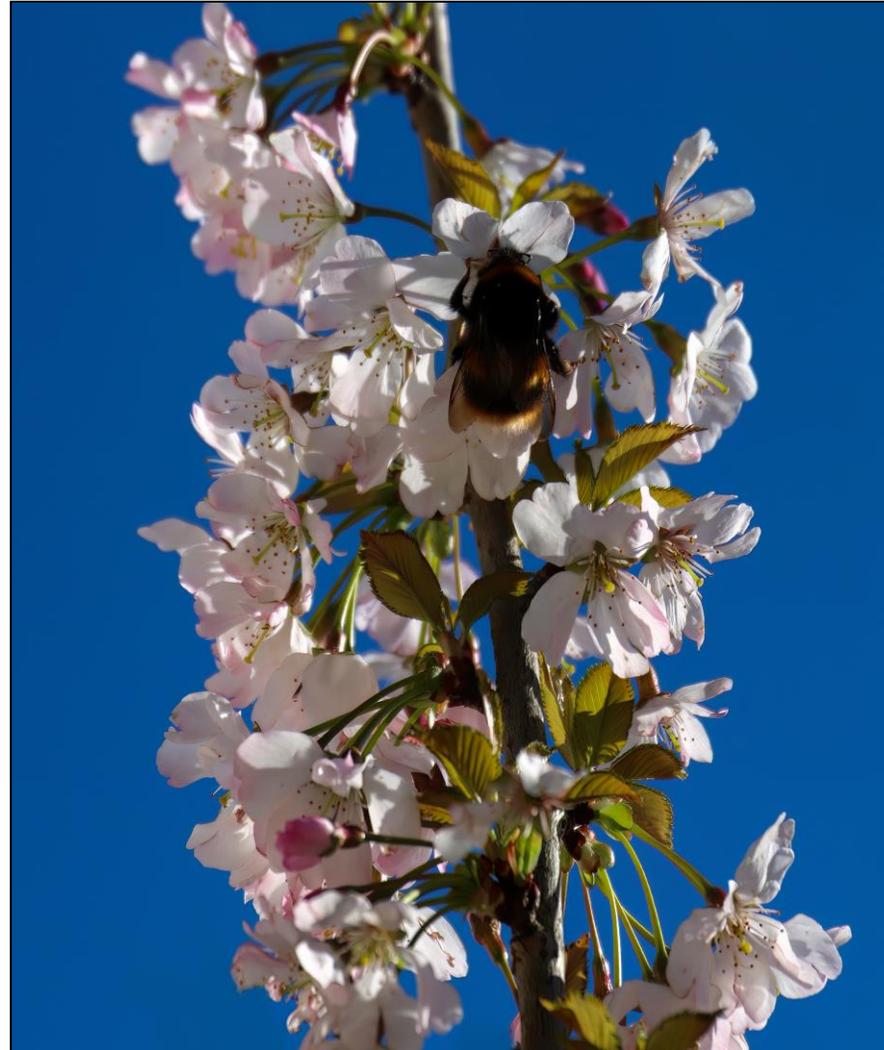
2022/2023



Throughout the year we were kindly sponsored by Yealm Community Energy, Great Big Green Week and the Locality Fund of Councillor Matt Chown. Brixton Bee Wild Group would like to thank you all for your support to our group, our community and our wildlife.

1. Brixton Bee Wild Group – Year 2

- During 2023/23 Brixton Bee Wild Group met nine times, developed its second Action Plan and continued to work on improving the parish verges.
- We hosted a further Bee Friendly Event under the banner of Great Big Green Week.
- We planted trees, bulbs and wildflowers.
- We worked with similar groups, our school, church, volunteers, friends and family to help improve our environment for our community, the birds and the insects.
- We extended our work into the Carrollsland area.
- We helped to spread the word about the importance of water conservation.



2. Brixton Bee Wild Group – Year 2 cont'd

- We began to monitor our beautiful heritage trees and any planning applications which may affect them.
- We continued to promote the natural establishment of wild flowers by reducing mowing.
- We began to develop a snowdrop walk.
- And we have celebrated the wonderful work of our volunteer groups – usually over cake and a coffee.



Brixton Voluntary Streetsweepers at Work

3. We helped to plant trees.

- The summer heatwave of 2022 presented its challenges but thanks to our team of watering helpers, the 11 Trees for Bees which we planted in the verges last year continued to look healthy. We enjoyed seeing them come into flower for the first time.
- We helped to plant 3 more trees this year to celebrate the Coronation.



4. We added bulbs and wildflowers to our verges

- We planted bulbs at Carrollsland and at Cofflete Creek and on Steerpoint Road
- We added cowslips, teasels and evening primrose to some of our verges with varying success - and we learnt a lot along the way.



5. We hosted a further Bee Friendly Event - Great Big Green Week

For our 2022 Bee Friendly Event we joined in the national Great Big Green Week celebrations – We organised a whole week of activities to raise awareness and inspire action on green issues across the age ranges. The following was the programme of events:-

Date & Venue	Programme
Saturday 24 th Sept. 2.00 – 4.00 p.m. at St Mary's C of E Primary School	Join our Great Big Green Week Family Event - Bulb planting and bird box building for children. Nature and climate change activities, colouring and quizzes for all the family. Did your garden struggle in the heatwave? Interested in saving water? We have a small supply of water butts to give away – applications available on the day.
Sunday 25 th Sept. 2.00 – 4.00 p.m. Cofflete Creek, Brixton Tor	Open Afternoon at Coffleet Creek – visit the site, learn about this riverside project, its flora and fauna.
Monday 26 th Sept. – 2.00 p.m. Carrollsland	Join the Brixton Bee Wild Group for a daffodil bulb planting session. Meet at Parks Avenue, Carrollsland, Staddiscombe by the copse. Tools supplied.
Wednesday 28 th Sept. 10.00 a.m. – 12.00. Meet in Sherford car park.	Brixton Bee Wild Group joins The Friends of Sherford Country Park to help establish a haymeadow.
Thursday 29 th Sept. 7.30 – 8.30 Community Room, St Mary's C of E Primary School	Life on the Verges talk by Lynne Kenderdine, Devon Wildlife Trust – learn about the importance of green corridors and improving the environment for our wildlife. Cancelled – to be scheduled at a later date.
Saturday 1 st Oct. 11.00 a.m. Street Sweeping and Litter Picking The Foxhound, Brixton.	After the morning's cleaning session, the Street Sweepers and Litter Pickers get together to celebrate with refreshments at The Foxhound.
Saturday 1 st Oct. Autumn Tree Walk Meet at the Foxhound at 2.00 p.m.	Follow Alex Whish on an Autumn Tree Walk around Brixton – learn how to recognise different trees and early warning signs of damage and disease. Refreshments at The Foxhound after the walk.
Sunday 2 nd October 6.00 p.m. at St Mary's Church	Harvest Festival followed by supper – jacket potatoes cheese and beans and a pudding £5.00 children eat free.

6. Great Big Green Week cont'd

- At our Great Big Green Week Family Event attendees enjoyed a range of activities in the autumn sunshine – from planting bulbs to building bird boxes, taking part in quizzes and contributing environmental ideas on our sharing board – see wordart on cover.
- Our popular tree walk focused on the changing colours of autumn.
- The school requested a Big Bug Hotel for its project and one of our colleagues has been busy building this for them.
- We celebrated the work of our volunteer street sweepers and litterpickers with a special Litterpick Event followed by coffee and cake at The Foxhound.
- We bought some water butts and focused on people new to saving water to allocate them.
- The group enjoyed a morning scarifying, scattering and trampling mown hay to spread wildflower seeds in Sherford Country Park.
- We met at Cofflete Creek to promote this old mill site as an amenity space. Bulbs and wildflowers were planted and the new information board was much admired.
- A well-attended Harvest Festival service at St Mary's Church was followed by a Harvest supper.
- We all agreed that Great Big Green Week was tiring but very rewarding.



7. Farewell to Jenni

- This year we said farewell to Jenni, who has moved on to pastures new. She will be much missed by the Brixton Bee Wild Group.
- Photo – Jenni planting bulbs at Carroll Island.



8. Looking Forward

- Our plans for the future include:-
- Building on the work which we have already started.
- We aim to plant 13 trees in memory of the 13 Brixton men who died in WW1.
- We would like to reinstate a village orchard.
- We plan to improve wildflower planting on the verge around one of our bus stops.
- We aim to introduce some bat and owl boxes into our community.
- Also, we would like to investigate the introduction of Bat Detectors with possible live feed recording.

- During the year we have noted an increase in people walking the footpaths and pavements. There has also been a growing interest in our projects, our events, our work and the environment in general. The Brixton Bee Wild Group would like to thank you for your support and in helping us to grow this interest further.

