

Newsletter

July 2021

Chalford Biodiversity Trail Launch date: Saturday 31st July – join us!



We're inviting everyone to join in the launch of our new Biodiversity Trail! Its aim is to celebrate the rich variety of wildlife found in our local area and to highlight our efforts to restore and protect it for the future.

The 10 km Trail winds through woodland and hilltop grassland as well as visiting the canal and riverside in the valley. It's all on public footpaths or roads, some more accessible than others- it is steep and uneven in places. The good news is that it can be walked in bite-sized sections and some of it is flat! There are new noticeboards along the way to provide information on some of our smaller, special natural places and the work we're doing to improve them further.

A 'Snapshot Survey' of local biodiversity to launch our Trail

Come along on Launch Day and walk part of the Trail, however small. It would be great if you could then record 2 or 3 exciting discoveries on the way which celebrate our local biodiversity – swifts flying overhead, butterflies dancing over the long grass – anything that takes your fancy! Expertise definitely not required!

Then bring news of your discoveries to France Lynch Pleasure Ground between 2 and 4 in the afternoon to share with members of Biodiversity Action. Anything you need help to identify- a flower, bug, moth, butterfly- just take a snap of it and we'll have experts on hand tell you what you have seen! Then we can record all the discoveries on a special notice board (including a special little board for children) and send out all the findings.

To help you follow the trail there is a leaflet in both paper and online form, a wonderful map and artwork provided by local artist Ruth Hickson. Details on the ChalCAN website here.

The Trail has been developed by volunteers from Biodiversity Action, which is part of ChalCAN. Many thanks to Caring for the Cotswolds and Chalford Parish Council for their generous sponsorship, and to those who contributed to our crowd funding campaign.

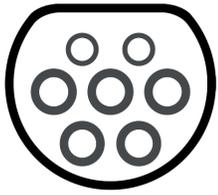


And here are some butterflies and moths you might find at this time of the year ...

Colourful *Scarlet Tiger moths* may be seen for a week or so yet, often in the daytime, particularly early evening. The caterpillars love Green Alkanet and Comfrey. *Elephant Hawk* and *Small Elephant Hawk moths* are also flying now, but you will have to look for these at night. Their caterpillar favourite foods are Fuschia, Rosebay Willow Herb and Bedstraw.

Red Admirals, *Small Tortoiseshells*, *Peacocks*, *Meadow Browns*, *Ringlets* and *Marbled Whites* are flying in the gardens and countryside. Look out also for the *Gatekeeper*, which should arrive towards the end of July. This butterfly is particularly attracted to Marjoram. *Large and Small Skippers* can also be seen locally and visit gardens – these are often mistaken for moths. *Gatekeepers* and *Skippers* all use grasses as their foodplants.

Some easy wins to attract butterflies to your garden are Honesty and Jack-by-the-Hedge for the *Orange Tip butterfly*, Alder Buckthorn (a shrub) for the *Brimstone*, Nasturtiums to attract the 'Cabbage Whites' away from your Brassicas and Birds-foot-trefoil for the *Common Blue*. If you just want to provide a feeding station for passing butterflies, then make sure you plant single flowers, use peat free compost and don't use pesticides. **You can also help butterflies by doing the Big Butterfly Count which runs from 16 July to 8 August 2021.**



Thinking of buying an electric car? Part 2: Charging

Are you worried about finding charging points for your Electric Vehicle (EV)?

Most current EV owners do most of their charging at home, either by plugging it into an ordinary plug to get a 3KWh charge, or by installing a dedicated home charging unit and getting 7KWh. Most EV owners also make journeys knowing that they have enough charge to do their full journey, but longer journeys require some planning.

- The most common charger type is the Type 2. These are often found in supermarkets and car parks. Your EV should come with a cable in the boot to fit your charger and which will plug you into the correct charging point type.
- Most charging points, free and paid, are Fast charging (7KWh or or 22KWh). The Electric Highway charging points at Motorway Service (formerly Ecotricity, now Gridserve) are Rapid Charging (43KWh or more) and can charge your battery up to nearly full in 45 minutes.
- There are free Apps such as ZapMap and Carwow. Both highlight which type of charger is installed at a location so you can filter out any types you can't use. ZapMap indicates whether the charging point has been used recently by an app user and whether it was working at that point. Both show whether you'll need to pay for it (some points are free to use, often as a customer e.g. Tesco).
- If you need to pay you will usually use an App (e.g.

Podpoint, Chargepoint, BP Pulse). It's worth having these installed on your phone with your payment details set up, then it's a quick and easy transaction to get started and charge.

- ZapMap includes home charging points, where members offer their own home points for use by others – this can be a godsend in an emergency. Also just launched is Co-Charger; this app looks after the 'matchmaking' between people with chargers, and those who'd like to share them. It handles the communications, bookings and payments.

As more people who don't have off-street parking look to buy EVs the charging network will have to improve. More public charging points are needed. If you have a charging point, please consider registering it with ZapMap and offering it for use by others. As we live in a rural area, this isn't likely to happen very often, but might help someone in a crisis! Meantime Chalford Parish Council is planning to install a charging point at the Parish Centre and are actively looking at other local potential sites. If you have any suggestions or live in an area where access would be an issue, get in touch and let us know.

Stop press: we have just heard that following a report commissioned from Atkins GCC's charger rollout was agreed at a recent cabinet meeting. 500 double chargers will be installed across the county. Amongst the areas identified as priority for on street charging points is "East of Stroud: including along the A419, Eastcombe, Bussage, Brownshill, and Chalford Hill".

If you have any questions, about EVs come along to see our demo of EVs and information session in September or contact us (see below).



FREE REFRESH your cycling skills Bikeability Training for Adults RENEW your interest in cycling

Times and dates in September to suit participants

A one-off three-hour session
•
Friendly, informal, supportive and fun!

Limited spaces, so if you'd like to join in, please contact Penny info@chalcan.org.uk or to find out more call or text Peter on 07970 949628

Maximum of 3 people per course



The Bikeability Trust



Go to chalcan.org.uk or follow us on Facebook  for lots of useful ideas

Do you have a young family?

Let's be realistic: we want to reduce our waste, but the daily pressures of busy family life can make it challenging. There's no denying that a little bit of forward planning is necessary to make sustainable choices, but here are several different tips which might just fit your family's busy lifestyle.

Tried, tested, and written by a busy parent!



Transition Textiles Group

Would you like to learn how to mend your own clothes? Do you enjoy upcycling textiles? If so or if you want to share or learn textile crafts such as crochet and knitting with like-minded people the group would love to hear from you. They meet at the Stroud Trinity Rooms Community Hub in Field Road, Stroud and you will need to book a place. **Please contact Clare on textiles@transitionstroud.org for more information.**

Stroud Community Seed Bank

Some of the Seed Bank's Seed Guardians (volunteers who grow crops for seed to donate to the seed bank) are opening their growing spaces to the public for Garden Gathers this summer. Come along to find out more about saving seeds from your garden or allotment.

These events will be run outdoors and will comply with Covid safe guidelines. The Garden Gathers will take place on:

- Saturday 24 July with Heather in Horsley, 3-5pm
- Saturday 22 August with Richard in Eastington, 3-5pm

For more information and to book a place email Beth at seedbank@downtoearthstroud.co.uk

Walking maps



If you'd like to spend time outdoors and discover places on your doorstep you didn't know existed, you can use the beautiful walking and cycling maps by local artist Ruth Hickson to explore the areas around Stroud, including the river and canal and enjoy spotting wildlife such as fish and birds. Two maps are available from Ruth Hickson's website or the Cotswold Canals Connected website – look for the yellow banner across the website when you scroll down

If you would like to get involved with ChalCAN or be put in touch with one of the action groups (Biodiversity, Food & Waste, Energy or Transport) please contact Penny at info@chalcan.org.uk

Do browse our website chalcan.org.uk, follow us on Facebook and/or Instagram @chalford.can