



**South Wonston
Sustainability**

Biodiversity is all the different kinds of life you find in one place.

Often, these living things work together and depend on each other – for example: bacteria in pea plant roots, humans and the land where their food comes from.

Living things are found everywhere; for example:

- Your lawn or a wood or the sea, these will have lots of different kinds of life in them
- A pavement, a carpet or a wall, these will have fewer different kinds of life
- We know that plants grow better when they live in “rich” soil which has lots of other living things in it
- That is true for all living things including the animals and plants which provide our food
- But it is also true for us – we grow and feel better when we have other living things around us: our pets, other people, plants
- But also, helpful bacteria; in and on our bodies, our gut and skin



**Sign-up for our email list
using the QR code**

or by visiting <https://tinyletter.com/SouthWonstonSustainability>



sustainability@southwonston-pc.gov.uk



@SouthWonstonSustainability



@South_Wonston_Sustainability



We want to help by offering suggestions and examples of where we can help to make a more biodiverse world:

- Successes in our own community and how we can add to them
- Helping in the garden - lawns, flowers, ponds
- Attracting birds, insects, mammals in our garden and community
- Biodiversity in the wider world - flower verges, rivers, the sea and shoreline, the air we breathe
- How our farmers are helping - ploughing methods, crop rotation, set aside and wildlife areas, trust the tractor
- Supporting organisations which promote biodiversity
- Recognising that climate change can significantly reduce biodiversity
- Look for web sites, books and organisations which help us learn and understand
- Encouraging people to talk about it to each other



**Sign-up for our email list
using the QR code**

or by visiting <https://tinyletter.com/SouthWonstonSustainability>



sustainability@southwonston-pc.gov.uk

@SouthWonstonSustainability

@South_Wonston_Sustainability



South Wonston Sustainability

South Wonston is full of active, vibrant people who are already lovers of nature and of living things
For example, we know of people who are active:



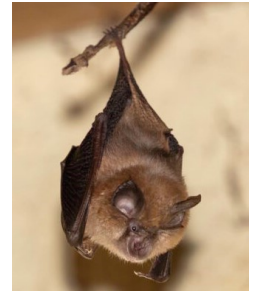
Dog lovers



Allotment holders and gardeners



Hedgehog protectors



Bat monitors



Walkers, countryside and wildlife lovers



Bee-keepers



Birdbox builders



Composters



Soil Lovers



Photographers



Litter pickers



Bug house builders

And this doesn't mention all the other, often more vital, things which support and encourage biodiversity



Sign-up for our email list using the QR code

or by visiting <https://tinyletter.com/SouthWonstonSustainability>



sustainability@southwonston-pc.gov.uk

@SouthWonstonSustainability

@South_Wonston_Sustainability



South Wonston Sustainability

Some of the other vital, things which we are involved with or interested in which support and encourage the biodiversity our lives depend on :

- More environmentally friendly travel
- More efficient food production and use
- The circular economy—reusing and repairing
- More efficient energy use
- Addressing the climate crisis

We will continue to hold events and encourage and develop local solutions for our village community which contribute to these goals

Our focus today:

- Distributing free Flower Balls—where you can get more and where you can use them
- How to build a Bug House and why
- A presentation on Swifts, encouraging them into our village and how you can get your own swift boxes and caller
- Where there are Bats in our local area, attracting them into your garden and surroundings and having your own bat boxes
- Giving you more Information and links on Biodiversity



**Sign-up for our email list
using the QR code**

or by visiting <https://tinyletter.com/SouthWonstonSustainability>



sustainability@southwonston-pc.gov.uk



@SouthWonstonSustainability



@South_Wonston_Sustainability



South Wonston Sustainability



Flower Seed Balls

Free Today

How to make them

You will need

1. Selection of local or UK flower seeds
2. General purpose compost
3. Cheap flour

Method:

1. Mix 1 cup of flour with water – stir with a stick or spoon until gloopy 😊
2. Mix 1-2 tablespoon of seed with 2 cups of compost/soil into a bucket /bowl
3. Add the flour and water mixture to the compost and seed and mix it all together
4. Now the balls can be formed. The mix just needs to be gently rolled in the hand to form a golf-ball sized ball
5. Place the balls in a tray or box and allow them to dry for 24 hours
6. Find a space that needs a bit of brightening up, and throw or plant the seed ball – preferably just before it is due to rain
7. Sit back and watch a little oasis of flowers grow over the next year and keep an eye out for bees and butterflies feeding on the flowers
8. Then save seed from your flowers and do the same next year 😊

Tips for Success

1. Ideally, seed balls should be made the day before rain is forecast and then cast 24 hours later – hopefully before the rain has started! If it doesn't rain then no matter, the seeds will be fine for a few days
2. Instead of the children all making round balls perhaps they could get creative and make different shapes?
3. If you are concerned that birds will eat the seeds then add a little paprika to the mix. It won't hurt them but birds don't like it!

Other recipes and instructions can be found on many websites. For example try the Wildlife Trust <https://www.wildlifetrusts.org/actions/how-make-seed-bomb>

Biodiversity



**Sign-up for our email list
using the QR code**

or by visiting <https://tinyletter.com/SouthWonstonSustainability>



sustainability@southwonston-pc.gov.uk



@SouthWonstonSustainability



@South_Wonston_Sustainability



South Wonston Sustainability

Building a Bug House



It's (mostly) pieces of damp wood!

To make a log pile, simply collect small logs, large sticks and pieces

of rotting wood. Pile them up in a damp, shady area of your garden, then stuff some dead leaves in the nooks and crannies to make it cosy. Good for: centipedes, woodlice and beetles who like to burrow into decaying wood.

But if you want to be more sophisticated just look up “How to Build a Bug Hotel”. It's the RSPB page below but there are loads of others and YouTube videos too : <https://www.rspb.org.uk/get-involved/activities/nature-on-your-doorstep/garden-activities/build-a-bug-hotel/>

But Why

Remember the days when the front of cars was covered with insects when you drove at night? We have lost 60% of our insect life. Bug hotels provide shelter for insects which are essential for pollination and prey on pests; but they can also give shelter to anything from hedgehogs to toads, solitary bees to bumblebees, and ladybirds to woodlice.

Biodiversity



Sign-up for our email list
using the QR code

or by visiting <https://tinyletter.com/SouthWonstonSustainability>



sustainability@southwonston-pc.gov.uk



@SouthWonstonSustainability



@South_Wonston_Sustainability

Swifts



South Wonston Sustainability

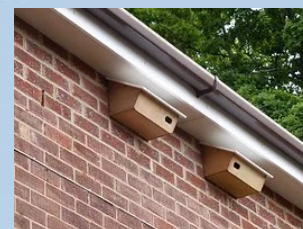
Bats

Were going to leave this to the experts - **Tim Norris** and **Martin Fowler** who are speaking later but...

Wouldn't it be wonderful to have one of the world's most amazing birds zooming around our village—the "fast jets" of the bird world which migrate thousands of miles every year, eat, drink and sleep on the wing and which can fly so high they can look over the curve of the world to see the weather — and they are named after our football team!



Swift nest boxes under a house eave



We do have bats around and in our village—but not enough; you can't get enough of these strange and mysterious creatures which sleep upside down, are magical flyers although they can hardly see but can still catch insects in flight and are warm-blooded mammals like us humans

You can find out more about these amazing creatures and also see where you can buy Swift and Bat boxes as follows:

Bat Conservation Trust— <https://www.bats.org.uk/>

Bat Boxes—<https://www.nhbs.com/> - search for bat boxes

Hampshire Swifts—<https://www.hampshireswifts.co.uk/>

Biodiversity



Sign-up for our email list
using the QR code

or by visiting <https://tinyletter.com/SouthWonstonSustainability>



sustainability@southwonston-pc.gov.uk



@SouthWonstonSustainability



@South_Wonston_Sustainability



What Next after today?

Things you might like to do next and where to find out how:

- Use your free seed-balls in your garden, buy some more or make your own
- Build your own bug houses—almost anything works and it encourages lots of other creatures too—e.g. think hedgehogs!
- Think about getting your own swift box(s) - fitting is included in the price
- Look out for our bat population - always busy at dusk; especially where there are insects, maybe those living in your bug boxes
- Look out for the local bird population; more varied than you might think; locals include blackbirds, robins, starlings, gold finches, sparrows, rooks, magpies, pigeons and more—but there are owls, sparrow-hawks, red kites making looking out for dinner and house-martins nesting in summer. How many could you see if you really tried.

Don't try to remember all this:

- Drop an e-mail to swsbiodiversity@gmail.com and we'll send you lots more information on the things we've covered to day; along with links to web-sites, books and other things of interest on biodiversity
- go to our website <https://swsustainability.co.uk/>
- Join us [on Facebook — South Wonston Sustainability Group](#)
- You could even go mad and join the Sustainability group



**Sign-up for our email list
using the QR code**

or by visiting <https://tinyletter.com/SouthWonstonSustainability>



sustainability@southwonston-pc.gov.uk

[@SouthWonstonSustainability](#)

[@South_Wonston_Sustainability](#)



South Wonston Sustainability

Biodiversity Web Links

Drop an e-mail to swsbiodiversity@gmail.com and we'll send you the links to web-sites, books and other things of interest on Biodiversity; If you come across anything of interest let us know by Facebook and also e-mail the link to the email address above.

Note—Because they are very long some links have been shortened via TinyURL. It doesn't make any difference and you don't need to have it installed. There are no viruses etc—promise!



What is biodiversity and why does it matter?

<https://tinyurl.com/ytfmynr2>

<https://www.worldwildlife.org/pages/what-is-biodiversity>

<https://tinyurl.com/yckteu4v>

There are lots of other—but try this one for children:

<https://www.amnh.org/explore/ology/biodiversity/what-is-biodiversity>

Climate change and loss of biodiversity

<https://www.cbd.int/article/biodiversityloss-climatechange>

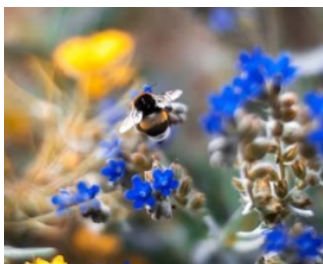
<https://tinyurl.com/mr4xcewv>

<https://tinyurl.com/2zczv9cw>

<https://tinyurl.com/2p98tuk5>

<https://www.zerohour.uk/>

<https://tinyurl.com/4mzhbcku>



Something on farming and growing

<https://www.countrysideonline.co.uk/>

Things to do and wildlife at home and around us

<https://tinyurl.com/469shnmX>

<https://takethejump.org/>

Bug and wildlife homes—how to make them and why

<https://tinyurl.com/25p7ekyc>

<https://tinyurl.com/53aaw43b>

More details on how—useful for schools and teachers

<https://tinyurl.com/mr22fsw8>



Biodiversity



Sign-up for our email list
using the QR code

or by visiting <https://tinyletter.com/SouthWonstonSustainability>



sustainability@southwonston-pc.gov.uk



@SouthWonstonSustainability



@South_Wonston_Sustainability



Biodiversity Web Links

Drop an e-mail to swsbiodiversity@gmail.com and we'll send you the links to web-sites, books and other things of interest on Biodiversity; If you come across anything of interest let us know by Facebook and also e-mail the link to the email address above.

Note—Because they are very long some links have been shortened via TinyURL. It doesn't make any difference and you don't need to have it installed. There are no viruses etc—promise!

Swifts

<https://www.hampshireswifts.co.uk/>

<https://www.hampshireswifts.co.uk/nesting>



Bats

<https://www.bats.org.uk/>

<https://www.bats.org.uk/our-work/buildings-planning-and-development/bat-boxes>

<https://www.nhbs.com/4?slug=bat-boxes>

Bat survey of bats around South Wonston 2022—thanks Martin Fowler

<https://tinyurl.com/mr3n5pje>

We will also send some documents (pdf format) as follows:

- The DEFRA (Department for the Environment) policy on Biodiversity
- How to make Seed Balls
- Two sheets on bug homes and how to make them
- More information on Bat Boxes
- Some suggested books and authors on the countryside and biodiversity

It's easier if we send everything at the same time so just delete or ignore them if you don't want them.

Finally—we want you to share with us—if you find links, information, items of local interest or anything else which others may find useful send details to us at our e-mail:

swsbiodiversity@gmail.com



Sign-up for our email list
using the QR code

or by visiting <https://tinyletter.com/SouthWonstonSustainability>



sustainability@southwonston-pc.gov.uk



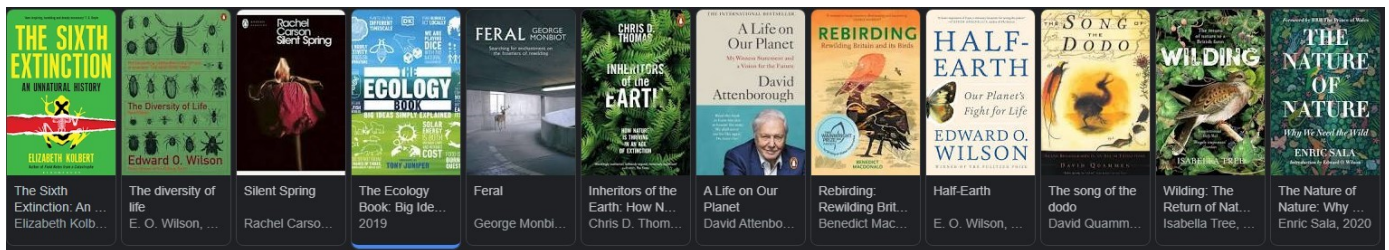
@SouthWonstonSustainability



@South_Wonston_Sustainability



Books to read - order at bookshops, online or in your local library



DK (www.dk.com) - **The Ecology Book: Big Ideas Simply Explained**

Silent Spring—Rachel Carson

E.O. Wilson—**The Diversity of Life** and **Inheritors of the Earth: How Nature Is Thriving in an Age of Extinction**

George Monbiot—**Feral**

Elizabeth Kolbert—**The Sixth Extinction: An Unnatural History**

David Attenborough—**A Life on our Planet**

Benedict Macdonald—**Rebirthing: Rewilding Britain and Its Birds**

Isabella Tree—**Wilding**

But remember - you know best - send as many suggestions as you want to swsbiodiversity@gmail.com



Sign-up for our email list using the QR code

or by visiting <https://tinyletter.com/SouthWonstonSustainability>



sustainability@southwonston-pc.gov.uk



@SouthWonstonSustainability



@South_Wonston_Sustainability



Books to read - order at bookshops, online or in your local library

A personal list - mostly about the countryside, farming and wildlife because if we love the things, as written about in these books, we will automatically want more biodiversity:

T. H. White

The Sword in the Stone

James Rebanks:

The Herdwick Shepherd - The Shepherd's Life: A Tale of the Lake District
English Pastoral | An Inheritance

A suggested newspaper article - <https://tinyurl.com/mtvp6uw3>

John Lewis-Stempel

lots of books; try this trilogy The Running Hare (Farmland), Meadowland (Fields) and The Wood (Woods)

A suggested newspaper article - <https://tinyurl.com/48442kks>

Henry Williamson

Tarka the Otter

Helen MacDonald

H is for Hawk

Verper Flights

But remember - you know best - send as many suggestions as you want to swsbiodiversity@gmail.com



**Sign-up for our email list
using the QR code**

or by visiting <https://tinyletter.com/SouthWonstonSustainability>



sustainability@southwonston-pc.gov.uk



[@SouthWonstonSustainability](https://www.facebook.com/SouthWonstonSustainability)



[@South_Wonston_Sustainability](https://www.instagram.com/South_Wonston_Sustainability)



South Wonston Sustainability

Thanks to:

- **The South Wonston Sustainability Group**
- **The Parish Council**
- **Tim Norris**
- **Martin Fowler**
- **Brian Cooper**
- **Everyone who came today**

And.. Great news we have cowslips in our field—thanks to Phil Oram and the Parish Council



Biodiversity



**Sign-up for our email list
using the QR code**

or by visiting <https://tinyletter.com/SouthWonstonSustainability>



sustainability@southwonston-pc.gov.uk



@SouthWonstonSustainability



@South_Wonston_Sustainability



Wildflower Seed Balls

Plant them in your garden or a pot.

**Re-use the bags which have been
generously donated by Jane and Andy from
the Village Shop**



**Sign-up for our email list
using the QR code**

or by visiting <https://tinyletter.com/SouthWonstonSustainability>



sustainability@southwonston-pc.gov.uk

@SouthWonstonSustainability

@South_Wonston_Sustainability