

## Rewilding Newton St Cyres Village Green

As the Secretary-General of the UN, said upon the publishing of the latest IPCC Report in August “we are at code red for humanity”.

We are in a climate crisis, but equally as important and dangerous to us all is the nature emergency. In 2019 the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) published a report that showed that a million species worldwide are at risk of extinction, out of 8.1 million species overall. 41% of the insect population of our world is threatened with extinction.

Scientific studies have clearly shown a massive, almost unbelievable decline in insects. An ongoing study has shown a 75% decline in 27 years, and this is in Europe.

80% of crops are pollinated by insects as are 80% of the wilder parts of our world.

In the UK, 97% of our wildflower meadows have been lost since the 1930's. The Natural History Museum has put together a global Biodiversity Intactness Index and the UK ranks 189 out of 218 countries for the state of its biodiversity.

We now face the greatest threat in the history of human civilisation. We either step up to the plate and work together as a community to try to mitigate the worst aspects of these twin emergencies, or our future and our children and grandchildren's lives will become increasingly difficult. Maybe to a point which no one wants to think about, but which is a realistic possibility, and becomes more likely every day we do not act.

The science has been known for more than 40 years, I was still at primary school here in NSC, and yet no action remotely commensurate has been taken. Do we want to continue to stick our heads in the sand and hope it goes away (it won't) or do we want to be part of the solution?

Two thirds of amenity land in Devon is short mown grass, but meadow habitats support eight times more wildlife. Greener and more biodiverse neighbourhoods provide health and wellbeing benefits for people.

If the village green had existed in the emergency of WW2, what would have happened to it? Gardens, lawns etc were dug for victory and I have no doubt that this village green would have also been.

This is an amazing opportunity to get the young of our community involved. To have beauty and nature around them, to explore with friends and family. To connect with the natural world, their world, in their community. To learn and to understand its importance to them now and in the future and that natural world needs to be and can be a huge part of their lives.

Now we find ourselves in an emergency like no other, and an emergency requires emergency action. This time it's not **dig for victory** but **grow for life**.