

June 25

Edition 3

Fordingbridge Greener Living Newsletter

**FORDINGBRIDGE
GREENER LIVING**



Dear Fordingbridge Greener Living Friends,

Welcome to our third newsletter. In this newsletter, we will update you as to what we've been up to since the last newsletter and looking forward to events coming up.

Fordingbridge Greener Living Committee

Purpose

To develop Fordingbridge into a greener town by delivering sustainable and environmentally friendly projects and sharing 'greener' methods and positive ideas which educate and encourage community involvement at all levels for the future benefit of this town and its environs.

Exciting News – Green Lane Woodlands

After our very hurried campaign to raise funds to buy the woodlands off Green Lane/Normandy Way, a benefactor came forward and was able to purchase them at the auction.

We are so grateful for the opportunity to save these woodlands as a wildlife haven. A small group of us had a bit of a tramp round them and they are truly diverse, with areas of wetland, thick woodland and also open glades. Our first task is to have a full professional ecological survey and create a management plan. This will identify the areas with the greatest diversity and those that need to be protected. We hope that other areas will be able to be accessed along pathways with small areas to sit and contemplate.

The plan is that Fordingbridge Greener Living will initially rent the woods from him and manage them. Over approximately 2 years a charity will be set up and a fundraising appeal will raise the capital to purchase them from him. This charity will have Trustees and a constitution that will manage the woodlands by and on behalf of the whole Town Community. The details are to be decided, but we will keep you informed.

Stop Press – we have just heard that we have been awarded a grant of £2,000 from Wessex Water foundation to pay for the ecological survey and Management plan!

Focus On

Community Recycling Shed - Corks

Jenny says: I just thought it might be good to let everyone know what happens to the corks that I collect from the Recycling shed...

I take them to Majestic in Salisbury, where there is a collection box just inside the door. They have them at all of their branches, or if you have your wine delivered by them you can actually give yours to their driver and they will take them away.

The collected corks are then delivered to the Eden Project in Cornwall where they are used, on a trial basis, as mulching for Mediterranean plants. The project's goal is to recycle over 1 million corks per year, offsetting the equivalent to 309 tonnes of CO2 emissions.

'As a national retailer, we're always looking at ways we can pull our weight in the climate crisis. Cork represents a perfectly circular, environmentally friendly industry from cork oak to bottle – with just one final missing component; what happens after the wine has been drunk. By working with the Cork Association, we're squaring the circle,' explained John Colley, Majestic CEO, in a statement announcing the scheme.

Please note that only natural cork can be recycled, not plastic corks.

For more information: <https://www.majestic.co.uk/services/cork-recycling>



Project News

Community Fridge and Freezer

We are delighted to welcome Angie Burrows to the team as a new volunteer, and we thank her for her interest and support.

Our objective is to prevent food going to waste, and to enable it to be used by anyone who may be in need. We continue to rely on the Coop, Sandy Balls shop and the Salvation Army for donations of food for the Community Fridge, and we are grateful to them for their support. Food supplies have

been uneven over the last few months for various reasons, but we do continue to receive food which would otherwise go to waste. However, as always, we are always pleased to hear of any other sources of food, so do please get in touch!

The Community Fridge is run by a fantastic loyal group of volunteers and we always welcome more help. The role involves collecting food 6 days a week from participating shops and taking it to Fordingbridge Library where the Fridge is held. We usually collect food in the morning before the Library opens, and each visit takes approximately 30 mins. For more details, contact Alison Ayling on 07798 555500 or email Fordingbridgegreenerliving@gmail.com

Opening Hours:

Monday: closed

Tuesday: 09.30 – 5.00

Wednesday: 9.30 – 5.00

Thursday: closed

Friday: 9.30 – 5.00

Saturday: 9.30 – 1.30

Sunday: closed

Community Garden and Orchard

Project jointly run by Anna Wilson (Councillor for Fordingbridge Town Council) and Debbie Millard (Fordingbridge Greener Living)

Welcome to the Community Garden update telling you what we have been up to. We hope that more of you now will know where the Community Garden is located – a hint- we are in the allotments in Fry's field but we are the only plot which is fenced in. We welcome visitors to come and join us – if you would like to volunteer, please email Fordingbridge Greener Living marking the subject line – Community Garden. If you would like just to use the Community Garden as a "Haven" please feel free to take a chair and a flask and go down – ideally go with a friend and let someone know where you are -also, to respect the residents who live alongside the allotments, we ask that you don't play loud music and that you don't visit past 7pm.

Anna Wilson, ably helped by her fabulous husband Mick, and the amazing team of volunteers have been working so hard on the allotment and there are now loads of raised beds which are full of wonderful produce. The adopted "no dig" policy seems to be being a huge success and we look forward to good crops from now to later in the season.

Angela Corben also ran a creative workshop for us which was so informative – a massive thanks to Angela from us – this workshop gave such lovely ideas easily adapted to use at your own home

We have also been working hard to establish links with the local schools, preschools and nurseries - we sent packs of seeds for the children to plant requesting that they return a small selection of the germinated plants to us to plant in the Community Garden – in some cases the children have come from school to do this in person and we have had some lovely feedback.

We have welcomed Yr 1 from Reception class at Fordingbridge infants, and will welcome Reception class very soon, as part of their community project – even the sun shone for us when Yr 1 came, and their behaviour was exemplary





We have forged a strong link with the Salvation Army, the Branch and the Scout movement who have also been involved in our growing programme and our planting programme and visiting the Community Garden for many other activities – the success of these occasions can be measured by the laughter and happy sounds coming from the garden.

We are delighted to tell you that we have two Duke of Edinburgh award candidates working with us – they, due to their age, are joined by their parents and so the whole family is involved,

We have received some lovely feedback a selection of which is at the end of the newsletter.

The Community Garden is located at the following address and can be accessed via the gate next to the garages in Picket Close at the back of the allotments, all volunteers welcome.

Fry's Field,
Picket Close,
Fordingbridge,
SP6 1JY



Repair Cafe and blister pack recycling



The Repair Cafe is held at the **Avonway Community Centre, The Annex on the 3rd Saturday of each month between 10:00 – 12:00.**

Our repairers have been hard at work helping to mend various household items. In June some of the items successfully repaired included an extension lead, vacuum cleaner, karaoke machine and a laptop, battery operated garden trimmers. We are not always successful, but we do have a go and are sometimes able to give advice.

The next date is **19th July and the following one 20th September**

Note that there is no Repair Café or blister pack collection in August

We are always on the lookout for repairers, so please come along if you have any handyman/woman skills and are keen to take things apart.

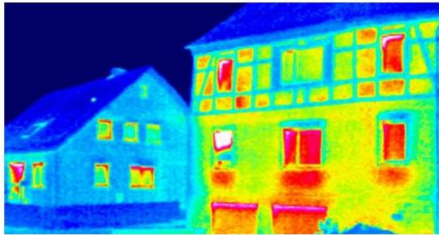
The blister pack recycling scheme, in conjunction with SpURT Salisbury and the Fordingbridge Surgery, has been going really well. We have been collecting approximately 3,000 packs each time. We've sent off 2 boxes and they are sent to MyGroup in Hull where they are industrially shredded, the materials separated and then reused. The cost of this has increased to £112 per box but we have generously been given a couple of grants to help fund this, so we have kept the cost at a suggested donation of £1/50 packs.

The feedback so far is that people are very grateful to be able to recycle the packs and will be there whenever there is a repair café.

For more information see spurt.uk

Community Energy

The Community Energy Group gained quite a few new members during the autumn. We now have about 20 members. We were able to carry out 12 or so thermal imaging surveys on local resident houses over the winter period and hope to do more next winter. The group keeps abreast of regional and national energy initiatives which may be beneficial to our local communities. We would welcome new members from any other local people interested in community energy initiatives or home energy projects. The group will reconvene in the autumn.



If you are interested in getting involved, please email fordingbridgegreenerliving@gmail.com. There are many organisations that can provide information and advice about saving energy and reducing your household or business energy bills. www.energysavingtrust.org.uk and environmentcentre.com can offer advice to households on how to save energy and save money. Also the local Home Energy Advice Team can also offer information and advice on saving energy.

River Avon Bathing Water Status – update June 2025

Since February, Jim Flory on behalf of the Environment Agency set up a Bathing Water steering group with representatives from Wessex Water, NFDC, Town Council and the swimmers. The group meets monthly and the purpose is to investigate and remediate the reasons for the river being polluted. An action plan is underway and over the next few months and years the Environment Agency and Wessex Water will be monitoring the water quality for a variety of pollutants and tracking down the source of the pollution. Once the source is identified then they can take remedial action or if in private hands, ensure the landowner will take remedial action to stop the pollution.

Wessex Water have placed their SONDE in the river just nearby the George pub. It is a water quality device that will measure water quality on a large number of measures. It is AI enabled and over time will be able to predict the quality of the water based on learned parameters.

This is a massive outcome for the river and we really hope that we can start to see it becoming cleaner in the immediate future.

The bathing water season officially started on the 15th May and so the water is being tested weekly for E.coli and intestinal enterococci. Results can be found on this website:



<https://environment.data.gov.uk/bwg/profiles/profile.html?site=ukj3308-19001>

Dates for the Diary

Repair Cafe/Blister pack recycling

19th July and the following 20th September

There is no repair café in August



Reminders

Easy Fundraising

With Easy Fundraising, every time you buy something online from a supplier who is part of the scheme, a donation will be given to your chosen charity. In the year we raised £139 from supporters, just buying what they need via Easy Fundraising. Do sign up.

www.easyfundraising.org.uk

Tetrapak recycling



A reminder that we also have a Tetrapak recycling bin in Fordingbridge located in the car park opposite the Recreation Ground. This is managed by NFDC who has now rolled the scheme out to other towns in the district.

The Green Gram – Community Refill Shop

23 High Street, Fordingbridge

www.thegreengram.org

Green Gram provides affordable plastic-free groceries offering a wide range of wholefoods, loose leaf teas and whole bean coffees, eco-friendly detergents and toiletries, as well as a selection of household products.

Everything is supplied without single use plastic packaging so you can buy as much or as little as you need! Customers are encouraged to bring their own containers to refill, but a selection of donated jars and bottles are available.



Contact Details

Email : fordingbridgegreenerliving@gmail.com

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1321462448635262>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/fordingbridgegreenerliving/>

Website: www.fordingbridgegreenerliving.org

Next Newsletter Edition : September 2025.

Community Garden Feedback:
Miss Appleby Yr 1 Fordingbridge Infant School teacher

"Thank you so much for having us we had a wonderful time and the children thoroughly enjoyed it the children have already drawn some pictures (these will be displayed at the Community garden) "



Claire the Leader of the Squirrels at Fordingbridge

"The 1st Fordingbridge Squirrels visited the community garden as part of their Community Interest Badge, where they have been learning all about how to support their local community This evening we learnt all about a communal growing space, what was growing and how to help out .Some Squirrels had brought peas they had planted before Easter to contribute to the garden and they even took some seeds home to grow more. It was a really interesting session thanks to the garden volunteers Debbie and Anna and the Squirrels had a great time they especially enjoyed helping with the watering, finding ladybirds and eating strawberries"

Salvation Army

"The Salvation Army Tea and Play Cafe (a stay and play group for under 5's) have a successfully visited the community garden for a second time this term. With plenty of watering going on(of plants and children) it was a great opportunity to connect with nature, not only to see how the potatoes we had planted at Easter had grown, but also to share a strawberry or two. The weather was pleasant and a good time was had by all thanks to the Community Garden Volunteers Anna and Debbie.



Little Foresters West Downland School

"We've loved being part of the Fordingbridge Community Garden Project! The children in the preschool have learned so much from the experience, and it 's been a regular topic of interest in the Forest School across the site too. We hope the community gardens are blooming with all sorts of wonderful things as we head into summer from little foresters"

From Debbie (who son is doing his D.O.E Bronze level award and is Volunteering at the Community Garden)

"My son is currently doing bronze level Duke of Edinburgh and is carrying out his volunteering in Fordingbridge Community Garden. He is really enjoying his experience and has taken part in planting various vegetables. He is learning about the planting and watering process and is proud that some of the produce is given to the community larder to help those in need in the local area"

From The Branch Fordingbridge

"We are very grateful for the support of the Fordingbridge Community Garden in providing activities for the families who attend our free Breakfast Cafe for local families during the holidays. Many have enjoyed visiting the allotment, and thanks to the Community Garden's generous donation of soil, seeds and pots, families can now grow their own plants at home. Not all families have gardens ,so this has been particularly lovely way for them to take part in a meaningful and inclusive community activity. There was also the option for families to plant their flowers at the community garden on Fry's Field once they're established.

A big thank you once again a big thank you again to the Community Garden, and a special shout out to Debbie for organising everything- the kids loved having this bonus activity to take away during their holidays!"