



Sustainability and climate change are global issues high on the agenda of every government body at international and local level, but how can we make a difference in a small Dartmoor village?

This conundrum resulted in Greener Belstone – a village initiative focussing on how we, as a small rural community, can come up with ideas that can help protect and increase local biodiversity. Our first village event took place on a scorching Sunday afternoon, July 18th, when 20 people joined an environmental

gardens tour of four very different gardens in Belstone.

The walk focused on themes of home composting, encouraging wildlife in the garden, hedge laying, grass management, water harvesting and permaculture. Some excellent tips on these topics can be found at Greener Belstone | Belstone (belstonevillage.net).

The overall message from this inspiring afternoon was the importance of encouraging diversity in our gardens

– ponds, hedgerows, trees, and a definite relaxation on garden tidiness all help create places of joy for wildlife and garden owners.

Greener Belstone is planning other events and offering more opportunities for people to share knowledge on green issues. However small our community may be, we believe we can make a difference. For more information about Greener Belstone, or if you are running a similar community group, please contact us at greenerbelstone@gmail.com.

Roof-us lends a hand

Roof-us, the Sampford Courtenay Village Hall mascot, was on hand recently, to help builders from Mark Hedges Construction with the first phase of work to save the village hall.

Over £36,000 has now been raised for the roof appeal enabling work to start on replacing the Victorian windows which were in a very dangerous state.

This impressive sum has been raised through the hard work of a dedicated group of volunteers, who have organised a wide range of fundraising events during Covid restrictions, as well as

the generous support of individual local sponsors and parishioners.

The hall, formerly the village school, has been the centre of the community in Sampford Courtenay for many generations and there was real concern that without urgent attention it could be lost for the future.

The appeal needs to raise a total of £150,000 for the complete works, which includes replacement of the roof and insulation. There is still a long way to go, but as well as completing applications to major charities and grant



organisations, the fundraising group has been organising a wide variety of activities and events during spring and summer.

In September the hall will host 'Roof-Aid' to 'Raise the roof for Roof-us' - a live music and entertainment event which is a first for Sampford Courtenay.

Further information about 'Roof Aid' is available at www.sampfordcourtenay-pc.gov.uk where you will also find details on other ways to support the appeal.

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