



Worth Pro Earth - October 2025

The Feast of Saint Francis of Assisi - Saturday 4th October

Saint Francis of Assisi, who founded the Catholic Church's Franciscan order, lived in Italy during the late 12th and 13th centuries. He is remembered for his generosity to the poor and his willingness to minister to the lepers. He is the Patron saint of animals and the environment. St Francis died on October 4, 1226. Pope Gregory IX pronounced Saint Francis a saint in 1228.

Raising Hope Conference for the tenth anniversary of Laudato Si' - 2nd - 3rd October

His Holiness Pope Leo XIV will lead a celebration of hope for our common home. Leaders from the realms of faith, movements, science, and policy will reflect on the impact of Laudato Si' and the most effective actions we can take now. Attend via livestream or get the recording here. Find out more at the following link: <https://raisinghope.earth/conference/>

Laudato Si' 10th Anniversary

John Paul de Quay from Journey to 2030 will return to give a talk to the parish on Sunday 26 October at 11am in the Unity Room. The title of his talk is "Pilgrims of Hope, towards a better world, the 10th anniversary of Laudato Si'".

The Royal Horticultural Society - Top 12 Plants for Autumn Pollinators

Summer's bloom-packed borders are starting to wind down, discover 12 top autumn-flowering plants to help pollinators through the leaner months. As flower-filled summer gives way to autumn and its mellower garden bounty of fruits and foliage, there's a chance that the nectar and pollen on offer could fall short of what our bees, butterflies and moths need as they stock up for winter. You can make sure you're still providing for these invaluable insects just by introducing a few plants for autumn pollinators into your outdoor space. Take your pick from these 12 expert recommendations, chosen by Bumblebee Conservation Trust founder Professor Dave Goulson, ecologist Dr Nick Tew and RHS Senior Wildlife Expert Helen Bostock, to give pollinators a helping hand as they prepare for hibernation, find out more at the following link: <https://www.rhs.org.uk/garden-inspiration/wildlife/top-12-plants-for-autumn-pollinators?>

The Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology

The Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology is a membership institution dedicated to interpreting and conserving the earth's biological diversity through research, education and citizen science focused on birds. Have a hoot with the Barred Owl Cam's top 5 highlights from the 2025 season. Watch as this year's fuzzy owlets grow and take their first steps out of the nest box. Their video series Wild Birds Revealed takes you to a bustling puffin colony off the coast of Maine to capture how these seabirds master life in the air and underwater. Check out the webcams: [Barred Owl webcam](#) [Atlantic Puffins webcam](#)

West Sussex County Council - Updated Flood Risk Management Strategy launches

West Sussex County Council have just published their updated Local Flood Risk Management Strategy which sets out their approach to managing and reducing the risk of flooding across West Sussex. Because floods can have a devastating impact on people's lives, they have worked with residents to understand the causes and impact of flooding. Using extensive data collection, stakeholder engagement and a public consultation, their new strategy is designed to have a positive impact on the whole county's environment, economy, and communities. Learn more at the following link: <https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/news/west-sussex-county-council-announces-new-local-flood-risk-management-strategy/>

West Sussex County Council - Greenprint Project

Greenprint is an exciting 3-year project to test if grass cuttings collected from mowed verges can be converted into biofuels and a material called biochar, a carbon-rich substance that's like charcoal. We're also measuring how changes to the way we cut the grass can give nature a boost, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and capture carbon in the ground. Read on to discover how we're trialling a new way of managing grass verges to reduce the carbon footprint associated with highways maintenance. Biochar is a very stable carbon-rich material made from plants. It can be incorporated into construction materials like concrete and asphalt. Because it is very slow to decompose it can safely store carbon for centuries, which can help reduce carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. Greenprint is evaluating different ways of converting the cut grass we collect from roadside verges into biochar. We're planning road trials to investigate the use of biochar in road maintenance. Yes, that's right, we're seeing if biochar made from grass cuttings collected from roadside verges could be used in our road repairs. Adding biochar to road surfaces or using it to build the road substructure helps trap carbon dioxide in a stable form within the ground. We will study how these eco-friendly road construction methods can be used to store carbon and lower emissions. This could close the loop and play a big role in creating a road infrastructure that helps fight climate change. Read the Greenprint Project report: https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/media/m1vikv1n/greenprint_yr2_report.pdf

Rethinking Verge Maintenance

West Sussex County Council have partnered with [South Gloucestershire Council](#) to explore new ways to maintain roadside verges and open spaces. In West Sussex we're using special mowers to 'cut and collect' grass on urban verges in Horsham and rural verges in Aldwick, Bersted and Pagham. We're trialling different cutting schedules and taking the cut grass away. Cuttings are usually left to compost on the ground but that creates carbon dioxide (CO₂) and nitrous oxide (N₂O), the gasses that contribute to climate change. Collecting the cuttings reduces these greenhouse gas emissions and the grass regrows more slowly so more wildflowers that attract pollinating insects have a chance to grow. This captures more carbon in the soil and the collected cuttings can be processed to create useful products like biofuel and biochar. Slower grass regrowth also reduces the number of times we need to cut the grass each year. Which means the mowing machines need less maintenance and we use less fuel to power them. Last year they cut and collected over 909 hectares of grass, equivalent to 1,400 football pitches. The project is now in its third year and we're proud of the progress we're making.

Sussex Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRS) Major Milestone Reached – Supporting Authority review

On 20 August 2025, the draft East Sussex and Brighton & Hove LNRS, and the West Sussex LNRS were submitted to the Sussex Supporting Authority Group for a statutory 28-day review. All 48 Local Nature Recovery Strategies being developed across England must go through this step. It signals the strategy is close to completion; all component parts [shared with you along the way](#) have now been drawn together and the strategy has been drafted.

What's the purpose of the Supporting Authority review? To identify any significant issues that would prevent the Responsible Authorities (in this case East Sussex County Council and West Sussex County Council) from initiating the public consultation on their Local Nature Recovery Strategy.

When and what is the public consultation? Mid-October is when the public consultation on the Sussex strategies is targeted to begin. The consultation will be open for six weeks and will give everyone living and working in Sussex the opportunity to review their LNRS and give their thoughts on it, before the strategies are published in early 2026. See the publications at the following link: <https://sussexnaturerecovery.org.uk/publications>

Fairer World Lindfield Green UP! Event - Tuesday 14 October

'Unravelling Fast Fashion' with Carrie Cort, CEO of Sussex Green Living 1900-2030 at the Stand Up Inn, High Street, Lindfield. A discussion with Carrie Cort, set to spotlight one of the most overlooked contributors to environmental degradation: fast fashion, find out more on their website: <https://fairerworldlindfield.org>

Fairtrade Fortnight

As Fairtrade fortnight comes to a close on Monday, the Positive News articles below may be worth a read: <https://www.positive.news/society/five-fairtrade-certified-products-you-didnt-know-you-could-buy/>

Repair Cafes

Repair cafes aim to reduce waste by encouraging a repair culture in the community. A repair can save time, money and waste. If you have something that needs fixing, just pop into your local repair cafe, check out their website before you visit, as you may need to book a slot, details of local repair cafes for September:

Lindfield repair cafe is open on Saturday 4 October from 10am - 1pm, United Reformed Church, 52 High Street, Lindfield, RH16 2HL, visit their website for more details <https://www.lindfieldrepaircafe.org>

Horley repair cafe is open on Saturday 11 October from 1130-1430, St Wilfrid's Church Hall, Horley Row, Horley RH6 8DF, contact them: horleyrepaircafe@yahoo.com

Forest Row repair cafe is open on Saturday 19 October at the Forest Community Centre, Hartfield Road, Forest Row, RH18 5DZ, visit website <https://forestrow.co/forest-row-repair-cafe/>

Handcross repair cafe on Saturday 18 October from 10-12 noon, High Street, Handcross, Haywards Heath RH17 6BL <https://handcrosshardwareandcraft.co.uk>

Crawley Down & Turners Hill repair cafe is open on Saturday 25 October from 1000-1200 at The Glebe Centre, Crawley Down. Email: ian.gibson@kilnwood.com <https://www.facebook.com/crawleydownrepaircafe/>

Horsham repair cafe, Saturday 25 October from 10am-230pm, United Reform Church, 45 Springfield Road, Horsham, RH12 2RG, website: <https://www.sussexgreenliving.org.uk/cafes-forums/horsham-repair-cafe/>

A prayer from the CAFOD novena for St Francis:

Creator God, the gentle breeze and falling rain, refresh us and give us life.

But we have upset the earth's natural balance, forgive us for our lack of care.

Breathe your Spirit upon us, O Lord, and lead us to follow the example of St Francis, as we seek to build a better world and sing a song of praise for all creation.

St Francis, pray for us.

WPE welcome new members. We meet once a month in St Benedict's. Next meeting is Tuesday 4th November at 2pm. Please get in touch if you would like to attend at parish@worth.org.uk