



## May Newsletter

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Welcome to Sustainable Overton's May Newsletter! We are excited to let you know what's going on in Overton, share some great environmental news, and inform you of amazing initiatives you can get involved with that contribute to the fight against the climate crisis. Read on to find out more...

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## Some good news

**Seven countries** now generate almost 100 per cent of their energy from renewable sources (The Independent). Albania, Bhutan, Nepal, Paraguay, Iceland, Ethiopia and the Democratic Republic of the Congo generated more than 99.7 per cent of the electricity they used from geothermal, hydro, solar or wind power. Further data showed that another 40 countries generated at least half of the electricity consumed from renewable sources in 2021 and 2022.

Eurostar is aiming to power its trains with **100 per cent renewable energy** by 2030 (euronews.com). Since 2017, its trains have been running solely on wind power in the Netherlands, and since 2023, 40 per cent of its energy has been powered by wind power in the UK.

This year it was reported that pine martens have **returned from the brink of extinction** in the south of England (The Independent). Experts stated that these creatures have made their home across the New Forest.

**Overton's Big Green Weekend** is just around the corner! Find out more below...

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## Save the date!

### **Walk to School Week - Monday 20th - Friday 24th May**

Walk to School Week is back today! We know that not everyone can participate in this initiative, but for those who are able this is a chance for children to learn more about the importance of sustainability and the impact nature has on wellbeing.

Overton Primary School are participating, so please do get involved if you can, whether it's by walking, wheeling, or Park & Striding.

### **Tales from the Riverbank Literature Festival**

This year, the Tales from the Riverbank project is holding a Literature Festival across Hampshire towns and villages in June to encourage storytelling about Hampshire's chalk streams. There are some great opportunities to get your creative juices flowing and reflect on the natural beauty of our environment - book onto an event here and find out more below.

### **Committee Meeting - Monday 3rd June**

Open to everyone, this is a chance to get together and talk about what we've done, what we want to do, who can do it and how we can work together to make Overton more sustainable. If you're interested in getting involved in the group, be it in conservation, content, or waste reduction, don't hesitate to come down and find out what we're up to. We'd love to hear from you! You can find us in the Community Centre at 8pm on 3rd June.

### **Overton's Big Green Weekend - Saturday 15th - Sunday 16th June**

The Big Green Weekend is fast approaching, so please make sure you've saved the date. This will be a wonderful weekend to share our fabulous green spaces and what Sustainable Overton has been up to. We'll be sending out a newsletter early next month with full details of what's to come, but check out our flier below for what we have scheduled!



# GREEN WEEKEND

15th-16th  
JUNE

## SUSTAINABLE FAIR

Overton Community Centre

Saturday 15th June 10am - 1pm

- Find out about Sustainable Overton
- Repair Cafe
- Junk Jodie show for children 10am
- Pre-loved toy market

Community Kitchen Garden open all day

E-bikes 11.45am-2pm ORC Carpark

Rivers talk by author Matt Gaw 7pm St Mary's Hall (book with HIWWT)

## SLOW FASHION SHOW

St Mary's Hall

Saturday 15th June 11am & 1pm

Out with the new and in with the old.

A show dedicated only to upcycled fashion!

## BUG HUNTING AND RIVER DIPPING

Little Meadow and Flashedts

Sunday 16th June 11am - 2pm

Join us and find out all about the wildlife  
living right here in the village!

Suitable for all ages - no booking required

Also, keep an eye out for our trail, commencing at half term and running through to the Green Weekend. You might spot the fliers in some of the village shops' windows...



**Plot that Plastic**

Plastic pollution is a threat to UK environments, even when its origin has been for good. Tree guards are an excellent example of this - they protect young trees from animals like deer and rabbits as well as other sources of damage, and they signal establishing trees. Trees are an integral part of ecosystems, providing habitats for a host of creatures and organisms, and removing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere. However, unfortunately, these tree guards can be forgotten about and left behind, becoming plastic pollution.

Therefore, Forest Plastics Working Group has set up a project to build a map showing locations of tree guards. This will help raise awareness of the issue, educate the public, and gather and share data that can facilitate the removal of guards at the appropriate time and assist in the development of recycling hubs.

To find out more and get involved in plotting sightings of plastic tree guards, visit the Forest Plastic Working Group's [website](#).

[Plot that Plastic](#)

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## Tales from the Riverbank

Hampshire's chalk streams are a unique and important part of the local environment, and one that has inspired authors and artists for many years. [Tales from the Riverbank](#) is a project that celebrates this creativity, and this year a [Literature Festival](#) is being held across Hampshire towns and villages in June to encourage storytelling about this tranquil and intrinsic part of the county's wild spaces.

Lots of exciting events are being held, including workshops, to get attendees into their flow, and speaker talks, such as [an evening with Matt Gaw](#), acclaimed author of *The Pull of the River: A Journey Into The Wild and Watery Heart of Britain*. Events are free however booking a spot is required - click [here](#) to view all the events and book via Eventbrite to secure your place.

Like all wild spaces, rivers face threats like sewage, so this is a fantastic opportunity to let your creativity bloom and reflect on our rivers, which we are so lucky to have. If

you want to find out more about protecting rivers from sewage and view a sewage map, check out The River Trust's [website](#).

Tales from the Riverbank

Literature Festival

The River Trust: Sewage map

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## Overton Cup-date

The Overton Cup has been a huge success in the village, conveniently allowing customers of certain shops and cafés to easily be more sustainable by taking their hot drink or soup in a reusable, environmentally-friendly cup.

As well as Wilson & Sons and Honesty, you can also now use one at Stanley's and Emporia! Find out more about the cup [here](#) or by clicking on the button below.



## The Overton Cup

### Free help to encourage wildlife in your garden

From hedgehog highways to wildflower patches, there's plenty you can do in your garden to help our native wildlife thrive.

Book a free one-hour garden survey with the borough council's Green Team for top tips and advice on what you can plant and do in your garden to make a real



difference for nature right at home.

To find out more and book, go to the [Basingstoke and Deane website](#), send the Green Team an [email](#) or give them a call on [01256 845 777](#).

[Book a survey](#)

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## Just one thing...

There is a huge amount of information available on how to live more sustainably, and sometimes this can be rather overwhelming, so we want to focus on just *one* thing that you can do this month to help the planet...

Why not try '[No Mow May](#)'? If you have a lawn or green space, try not mowing the grass in order to encourage flowers to bloom - this provides nectar for insects and generally helps maintain habitats for various creatures. It's easy to get swept up in the aesthetic of a neat, green lawn, but consider taking a step onto the wild side of gardening and see the natural beauty in a wilder lawn.

[No Mow May](#)

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## Helpful resources

At Sustainable Overton, we are all about providing tips and tricks on how to live greener, and let you know about resources that might be useful to you.

This month we want to tell you about the [RSPB wildlife gardening newsletter](#), which includes tips and advice on wildlife gardening, useful to anyone with green fingers or those who want to support the local, natural environment. This is particularly fitting this No Mow May! You can sign up [here](#).

RSPB newsletter

## Sustainable Overton

Overton, United Kingdom



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