

Wilding Weekend 2023

Clipper Teas are kindly sponsoring
the Wilding Weekend.

Thank you



Wilding Weekend 2023

On 17th and 18th June, 2023, **Julia Hailes MBE** and her husband **Jamie Macdonald** will be hosting the second Wilding Weekend at their home in West Dorset.



**Supporting the National Garden Scheme charities
and Operation Future Hope**



Ticket sales will be donated to the National Garden Scheme (NGS) charities.



Money raised from food, drink and other sales will be donated to Operation Future Hope, who promote wilding in schools and provide online environmental and ecological training courses for young students.

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Julia Hailes started her environmental career over 35 years ago. She has now transformed the 9 acres around her home into a wildlife haven.

She says "What we do in our gardens has a significant impact on wildlife and climate change - and everyone has a part to play, however big or small your garden.

Why is this so important? Because there has been a massive decline in almost all types of animals, insects, birds, amphibians, and reptiles – as well as plants and fungi. And, so many of the things we're doing in our gardens contribute to this problem."



"Come and see what we've done and see what you can do too!"



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What's Happening 1

During the weekend there will be guided tours, talks, exhibitors and stalls with information and advice about wilding, as well as things to buy.

Guided Tours: Conservation experts will show you the wildflower meadows, ponds, and grasslands identifying the insects, birds reptiles, and amphibians that they find.

This will include:

- **The Bumblebee Conservation Trust** bee tour, helping identify the different types of been found on-site

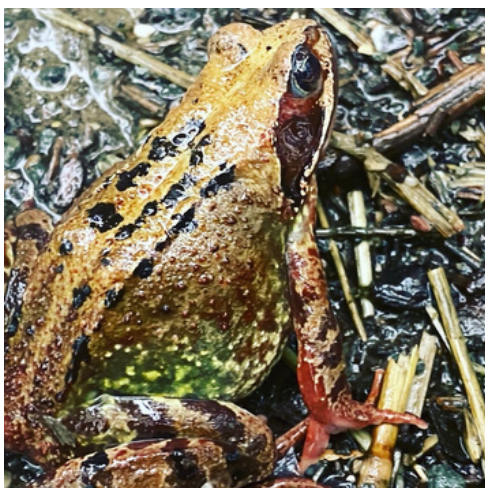
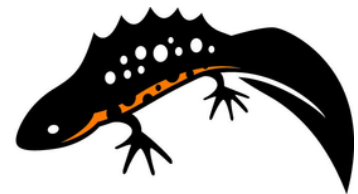


- **The Dorset Bat Group:** See below for details of the bat & moth tour being organised for Saturday night.



- **Amphibian and Reptile Conservation:** Taking people to visit the pond and wetland area to see what they can find. See below for some of the species found at Hooke.

**amphibian and reptile
conservation**



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What's Happening 2 - Talks

Julia will be telling visitors about the challenges and successes of wilding at Hooke. She will be joined by other experts covering a variety of topics, including the following:



- **Clipper Teas:** Our Wilding Weekend sponsor will be talking about what they're doing to support biodiversity.

- **Operation Future Hope:** Lesley Malpas will be talking about rewilding schools and the nature & rewilding course she has just launched



- **Sizzle:** Trewin Restorick has been a sustainability leader for over 30 years. His focus is on marking green choices easier and he'll be talking about why we must all stop using peat.

- **Real Wild Estates:** CEO Julian Matthews will talk about what they're doing to help large landowners embrace wilding



The Real Wild Estates Company
RESTORING NATURE - VALUING BIODIVERSITY



- **The Great Big Dorset Hedge:** Julie Leah will be explaining the Dorset Climate Action Network's initiative to promote hedgerows as a vital habitat for wildlife

- **Dorset Wildlife Trust:** Daisy Meadowcroft will be talking about what the DWT is doing to protect wildlife and make Dorset wilder



Dorset Wildlife Trust



WEST DORSET
WILDING

- **West Dorset Wilding:** Tom Brereton will be talking about how Mapperton Estate have launched a new landowner and farmer-led charity to restore eco-systems through rewilding and regenerative agriculture.

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What's Happening 3 - Stands

As well as talks and tours there will be stands with information about conservation, wildlife and wilding, displays and things for sale too. Many of the organisations talking at the event will be here, as well as:



- **Butterfly Conservation:** Moth trapped the previous night will be on display before they are released and there will be lots of information on butterflies too.



Dorset Mammal Group: Suzie and Colin Varndell will be exhibiting Colin's wildlife photography and telling people about what they're doing to preserve mammals in Dorset.

Bee Happy Plants & Seeds: Sarah Holdsworth is the fount of all knowledge on bee-happy plants as well as why we should avoid cultivars - and you'll be able to buy her plants and seeds.

Other things for sale will include books, bird boxes, wood products and local produce.



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Bat & Moth Tour - Saturday 17th June

Please come and join our bat and moth tour on Saturday evening.

Guided by bat expert, **Steve Masters** from the **Dorset Wildlife Trust** and the **Dorset Bat Group**, the bat tour will take people around the site to see what bats can be found.



This is our dry stone bat egg with bat caves inside

At the same time, **Adam Gale** - see left - will be setting moth traps to collect some specimens for the day visitors. Perhaps the bats might beat him to it and scoop up a few moths before they can be trapped.



Details

Visitors are to arrive by 9pm in time for some light food and drink and some chat about the evening plans. The actual tour will start at about 9.30 pm and finish around 11 pm. £20 per head, to include food, the tour, half-price tickets for the Wilding Weekend - and £15 donation to the **Dorset Bat Group**. ***Please book in advance by emailing julia@juliahailes.com - we will send you BACs details for payment.***

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Lunches & Cakes

We've been lucky enough to be able to offer a **Pop up F.east** for our Wilding Weekend! Some of you will know Claire Wellman, who ran the top-quality vegetarian restaurant in Ilminster. She's coming up with some delicious food for lunches and teas.



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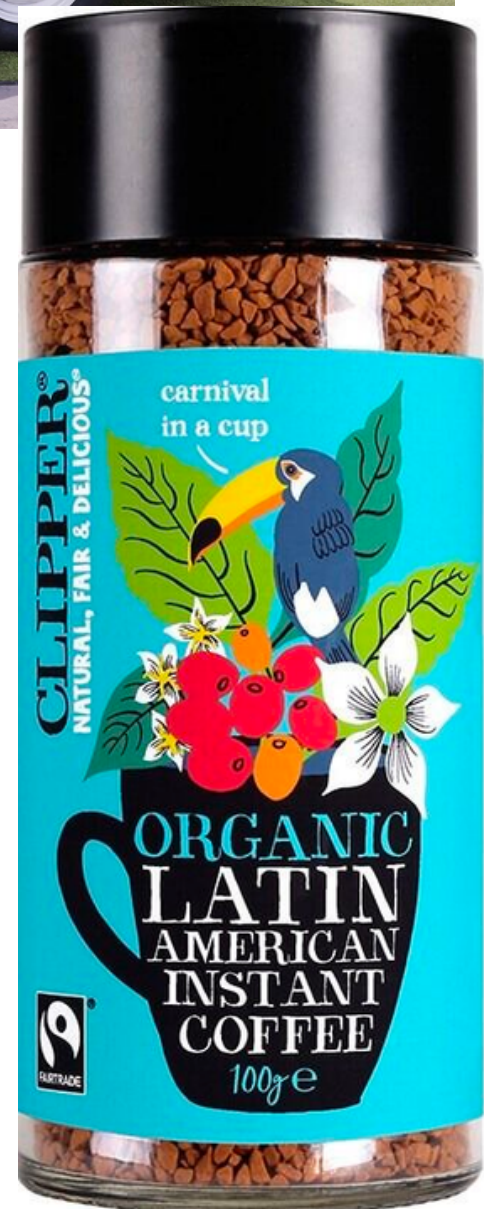
Teas & Coffees



Clipper Tea will be serving teas and coffees from their special van. 100% of the proceeds will be donated to **Operation Future Hope**.

They're also sponsoring a Wilding Weekend video and photographs.

Thank you!



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Key Players 1



Lesley Malpas from **Operation Future Hope** got us started on our wilding project. But it was **Andrew George** who created the plan and put it into action. His expertise as a habitat creation specialist was used to create wildflower meadows, ponds, and wildlife-friendly landscapes. Andrew, who now works as head of **Wessex Wilding** also conceived many of the more quirky features at Hooke, such as the Bat Egg, the unusual chicken house and the giant chair.



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Key Players 2



Bex Stanley - left - works as Julia's PA at Hooke Farm. She's been responsible for a lot of the organising for the Wilding Weekends.

Adam Gale - see below - is taking the lead on managing the ongoing wilding at Hooke. **Rachael Moss** - see right - is in charge of many things, including gardening, planting and creating the most wildlife-friendly and beautiful vegetable garden possible.



Bertie Clark has built many of the wood features around the property, including the pontoon, insect houses and the sweet track (with **Joe Wood**)



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Further Details

Dates: Saturday & Sunday the 17th & 18th June

Times: 10.30am to 5.30pm on both days

Location: Hooke Farm, Hooke, Beaminster, Dorset DT8 3NZ

Entrance fee: £8 for adults / £4 for children (for NGS)

Parking: Parking is a short walk away

Disabilities: Closer parking available but not all areas of the garden will be accessible

Toilets: On site

Food & Drink: Available all day - prices will be displayed

Ice-creams: Purbeck ice-creams will be for sale

Further information: www.juliahailes.com / julia@juliahailes.com







**Insects found
at Hooke...**

