

Plymouth Rewilding Network:




Spring Social Highlights



greenminds



The Urban Lab of Europe!

#GreenMindsPlymouth   

What happened?

On 31st March 2021, about 40 people joined the Plymouth Rewilding Network Online Spring Social. You can find out more by reading our Miroboard:

https://miro.com/app/board/o9J_lNqtjsU=/

After talking about the highlights from the December workshops and what action we've been taking since, Claire Honey from Real Ideas gave a guest talk on [The Market Hall's](#) new Immersive Dome (Devonport).

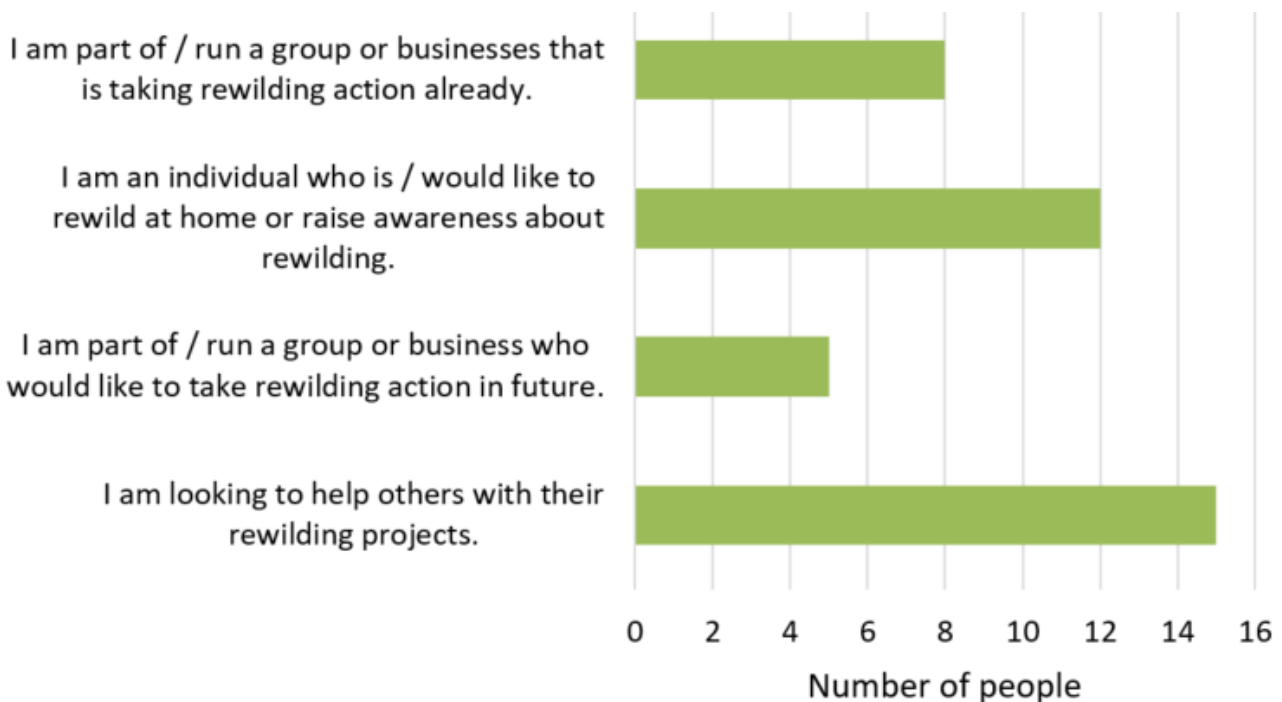
There was a quick update on Plymouth's beavers (now known as 'Brian & Beryl') before spending the majority of the social collaborating on thoughts and ideas across 4 breakout rooms:

1. Communications & Awareness Raising
2. Rewilding Greenspaces
3. Taking Action for Wildlife
4. Wildlife Monitoring & Citizen Science

Who attended?

- * Plymouth City Council
- * Devon Wildlife Trust
- * The Data Place
- * University of Plymouth
- * Plymouth College of Art
- * Real Ideas
- * Chris Parkes Photographer Ltd
- * Friends of Ennesettle & Budshead Wood
- * Cliik
- * Hoe Neighbourhood Forum
- * Friends of Radford Woods
- * Plymouth Tree Partnership
- * Seeds n Feeds
- * The Village Hub
- * Plymouth Open Spaces Network
- * Plus lots of individuals who want to help rewild Plymouth!

Interests of the Rewilding Network



Key themes & actions

1. Communications & Awareness Raising

- * Liked the importance of keeping things local and focused on Plymouth (like the recent '[Geddon](#)' campaign).
- * The marine world is as important as the terrestrial world—a key thing to weave into our communications more often along with freshwater habitats.
- * The importance of highlighting multiple voices and sharing experiences of nature was emphasised.
- * There was interest in taking something 'common' and reframing it more positively—championing the unsung heroes in the natural world.
- ⇒ We're going to reflect these multiple perspectives in our communications going forward.

2. Rewilding Greenspaces

- * How can we protect the greenspaces we have in Plymouth and how can we increase green corridors?
- * There was interest in how to rewild and increase biodiversity in both public and private greenspaces.
- * Rewilding mindsets—looking at how to best engage the wider community to appreciate how greenspaces can benefit both people and wildlife.
- ⇒ We're going to look into running 'rewilding surgeries'—bringing people together to explain how to rewild greenspaces in the right way.
- ⇒ Later this year, we'll run a planning & greenspace webinar focused on the policies protecting our natural spaces.

3. Taking Action for Wildlife

- * Everyone was keen to learn a range of survey and species identification skills.
- * There was interest in learning more about species for casual interest as well as contributing to longer term monitoring.
- * Most were interested in joining volunteer groups and developing practical conservation skills, but there was also a need to have flexibility to join events as and when they can.
- ⇒ We're launching our Take Action for Wildlife event programme this month!
- ⇒ We're making identifying and recording wildlife easier by putting guides and app recommendations on our [knowledge hub](#).

4. Wildlife Monitoring & Citizen Science

- * Several people were experienced in using wildlife apps and iRecord was the main platform used.
- * Everyone wanted to upskill and share knowledge, with an interest in joining local community groups on evenings or weekends when more people are available outside of work.
- * Many wanted a focus to contribute to wildlife monitoring, like doing plant surveys at a specific location.
- ⇒ We ran a [Citizen Science webinar](#) in April showing how to record your wildlife sightings through iRecord, with more resources being added to the [knowledge hub](#) soon.

Next steps

We'll continue developing the Rewilding Network participatory map, organising more events focused on taking action for wildlife, citizen science training and practical 'how to' rewild workshops. We're liaising with Devon Rewilding Group and Rewilding Britain to see how we can share resources and raise awareness. We'll also look to facilitate inspiring site visits as covid restrictions ease. Keep an eye out for more events at www.greenmindsplymouth.com/events