

## Climate and Ecological Emergency Working Party (CEE\_WP)

### Report to the Parish Council Meeting – February 2024

1. The working party, with the support of John Kenward (Whitchurch South resident) actively supported the microplastics clean-up at Charmouth Beach and river mouth from 24<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> January. The Nurdle organisation estimate that they collected 1.2million nurdles and biobeads. They will be returning for a further clean-up in March. Funding has been provided by South West Water.
2. At a meeting of the Clean Rivers of West Dorset group in January, discussions were started with Wessex Water over the possibility of WW conducting regular tests of water samples from the River Char taken by volunteers in the parish. Tests would be for *E. coli*, intestinal enterococci, ammonia, phosphates, nitrates, total dissolved solids and pesticides. We hope to have a decision in the next 2 months. They would enable us to assess pollution from Wessex Water assets, domestic and commercial septic tanks and from farm and agricultural sources.
3. John Kenward is coordinating volunteers for the existing Riverfly and Citizen Science river testing programmes and will coordinate volunteers for the above tests if required.

#### 4. Forthcoming events

- **Flooding, Farms and Wildlife** – community event organised by Climate and Ecological Emergency Working Party on Thursday 22nd Feb, 7.00pm, at Whitchurch Canonorum village hall. Talks:
  - **Natural Flood Management on the Char** – how our river works and how we can minimise flooding ~ Dr. Peter Stone, Geomorphologist
  - **Landscape Scale Good News: farm clusters and Landscape Recovery** ~ Nick Gray, Dorset Wildlife Trust
  - **Testing the Water: Riverfly, Citizen Science and pollution testing on the River Char** ~ John Kenward, River Char Community Project
  - **West Dorset Rivers & Coastal Streams ~ Work on our local rivers, including the River Brit** ~ Ian Rees, Dorset National Landscape (formerly AONB)
  - Afterwards: Q&A with speakers and time to find out more about the work of the River Char Community Project.
- **Daylighting Working Party** with Nick Gray's DWT volunteers in the headwaters of the River Char at Laverstock (near Pilsdon) on Thursday 29th Feb 2024 (app. 10am-2pm).
- **Six Inches of Soil - the exciting New Film** on regenerative agriculture is screening at Wootton Fitzpaine Village Hall on 8th March at 6.45pm.
  - Afterwards: Q&A with local farmers

Climate and Ecological Emergency Working Party  
Andrew Carey  
11<sup>th</sup> February 2024