

Press Release

30 May 2024

Everyone welcome at Great Bedwyn's amazing rain gardens
Catching rain to make a greener, cleaner more beautiful village

Action for the River Kennet have been working with the community in Great Bedwyn to find ways to manage rain better to reduce flooding and pollution. You can find out more about how we disconnected more than 3,000m² of roof and surface area from the drainage network by creating rain gardens, installing rain water planters and connecting water butts across the village. Individual gardens, Great Bedwyn Primary School, the Village Hall and the Doctors' Surgery all took part and will be open on Sunday 16th June. The school rain garden will be officially opened by Ninna Gibson, Deputy Lieutenant of Wiltshire at 12.30pm. Come and find out more at these three events:

1. **Wednesday 12th June** 6.45pm until 8pm at Great Bedwyn Village Hall – talk and presentations about ARK's Great Green Bedwyn Rain Garden Project.
2. **Sunday 16th June** from 12.30pm – Official opening of school rain garden
3. **Sunday 16th June** 1pm – 5pm onwards many village gardens, including rain gardens, will be open to the public for the afternoon as part of Great Bedwyn Open Gardens.

Tickets for Open Gardens will be available from the church and gardens on the day for £5. Other events are free.

More details about the rain garden project: Charlotte Hitchmough ARK 07880 515859. **For information about Open Gardens** contact Syliva Wyatt 07786 510222

Notes to Editors

Action for the River Kennet (ARK) is a rivers trust dedicated to protecting and improving the rivers in the Kennet, Pang and adjacent catchments.

Rain Gardens are a method of 'sustainable drainage' that remove rain water from the drainage network to reduce flooding and pollution from sewers and make more attractive and biodiverse spaces.

The project was enabled by funding and support from Thames Water, the Department for Education, Great Green Bedwyn and Wiltshire Wildlife Community Energy.

Photo of school rain garden credit ARK.

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Great Bedwyn School Rain Garden takes rain from the roof, through rain planters, across the playground and into a planted rain garden.