

ART and ENERGY

How to Bury the Giant In Moss and Moor



Our Common Cause:
Our Upland Commons

Enabling a
shared future
for all

**Shallowford Farm**
making the difference



Interim Report May 2023

How to Bury the Giant in moss and moor

What we delivered:

A tale of the Carbon Giant, the evolution of mosses and the role of peatlands has been shared to more than 600 people

Sphagnum Mosses have been explored, grown and will have been planted at 5 sites - Challacombe, Harford Moor, Shallowford Bog, Tor Royal Leat field, Mardon Down.

8 schools and 4 groups have been involved and made jam jar terraria.

Local fleece (that would otherwise be wasted) has been turned into felt to grow moss and make 'blankets', and also investigated by Dartmoor National Park for their creative and protective potential

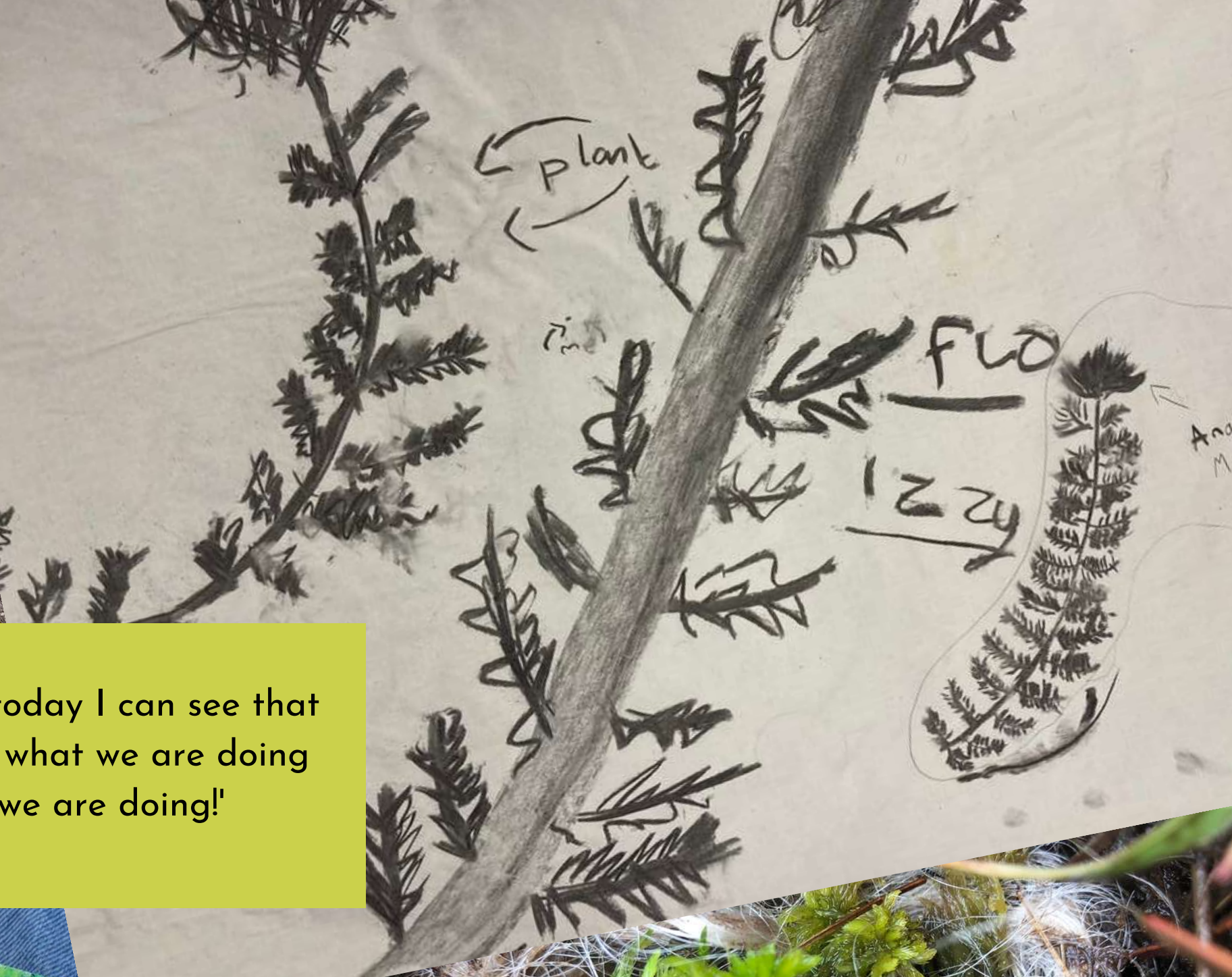
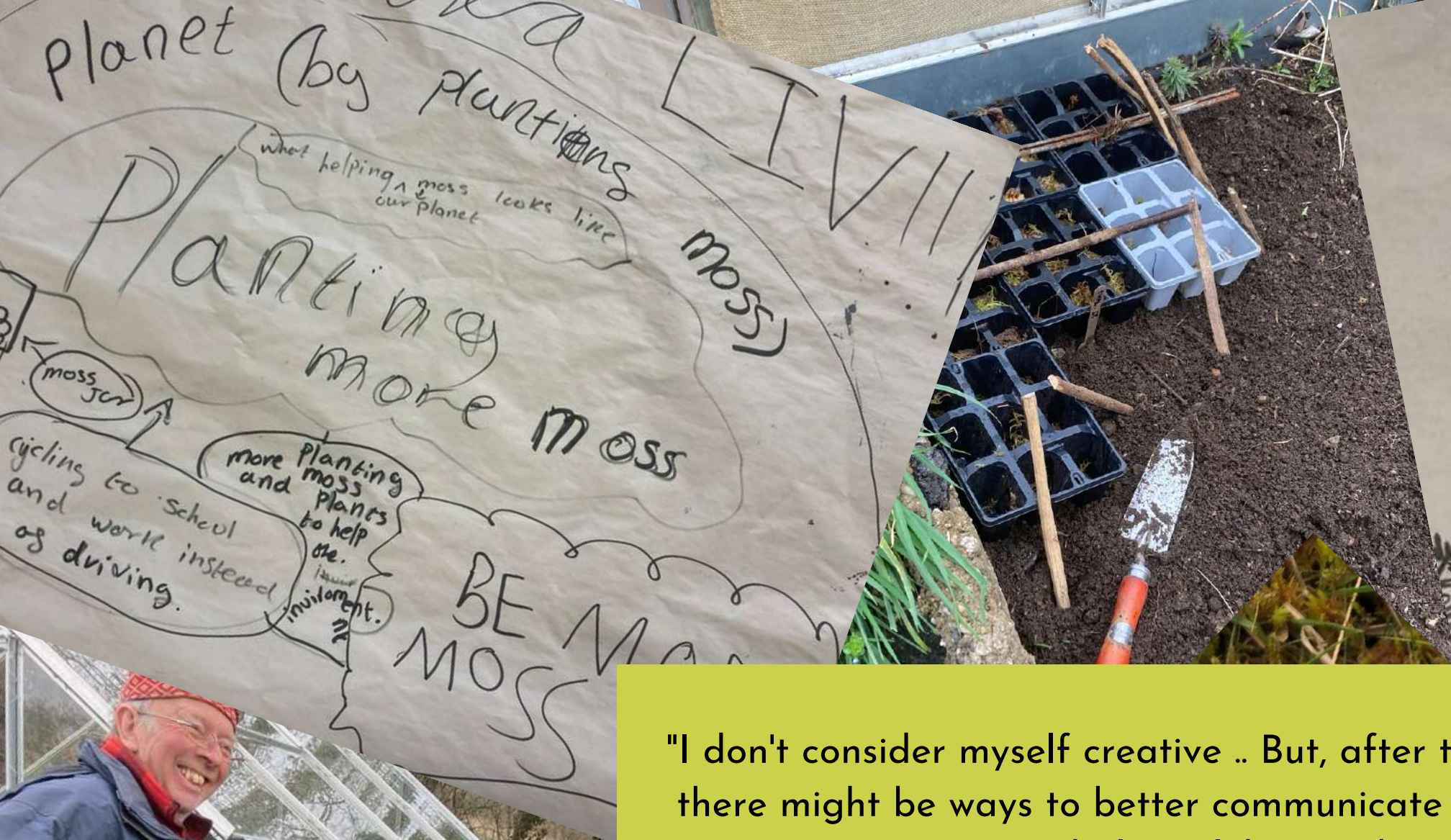
Experiments with growing sphagnum have been set up at 8 places

5 restoration and celebration events will have been held with local commoners, owners and organisations





'Thanks so much for coming and sharing your wonderful knowledge and letting us take part in the experiment. It was such an inspiring morning and we all loved it!'



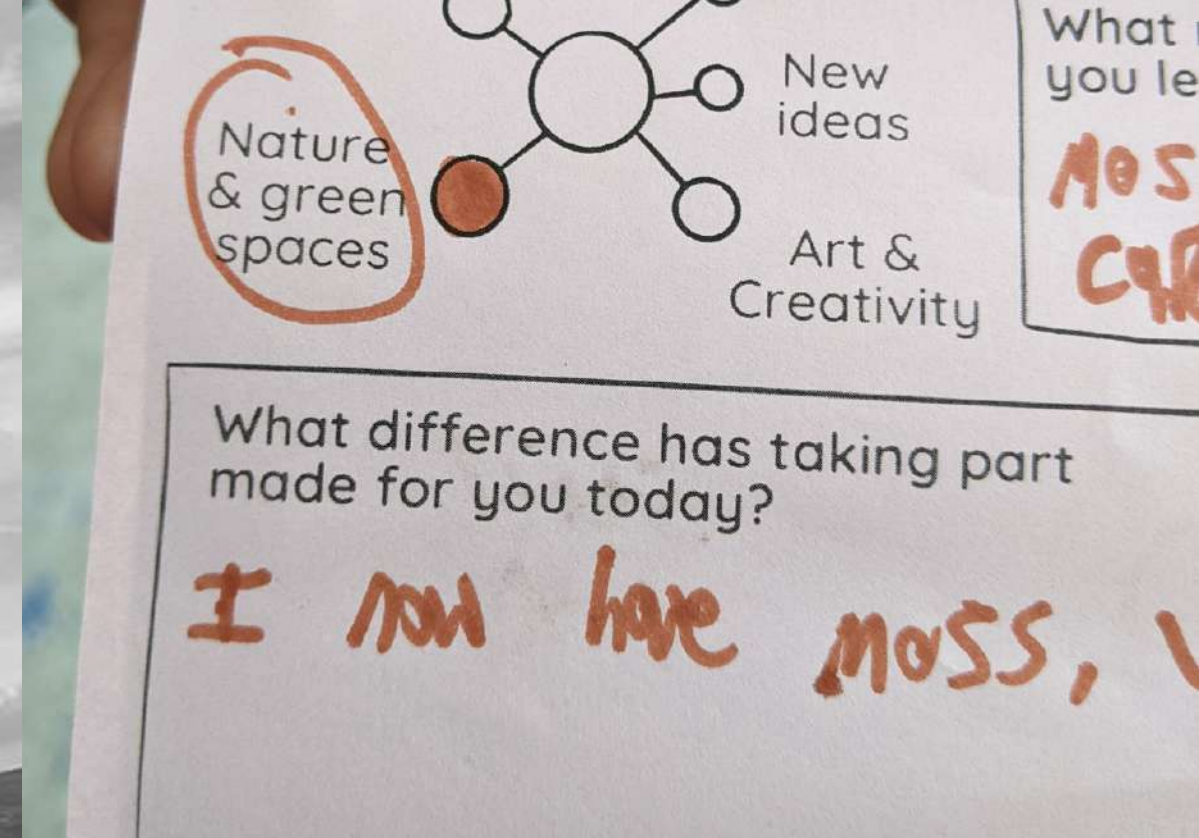
"I don't consider myself creative .. But, after today I can see that there might be ways to better communicate what we are doing on Dartmoor, and also celebrate what we are doing!"



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Bury the Giant.Club



Love mosses and the Moor and make a difference

We have developed an on-line community that will be able to share the outcomes from our work in moss and moor and get creative for a brighter, greener future. These on-line opportunities encourage more engagement with the project and give new people a chance to join in.

Using the moss as allegory we are inviting people to join Bury the Giant club and join in with:

- Monthly activities, prompts and live events
- Broadcasts
- Share creative activity
- Identify small ways to work together and reduce carbon emissions,
- understanding our power from renewables,
- take nature positive actions to protect our planet and sequester carbon



Blogs, media posts and social media

reached more than 1,000,000 people, including Spotlight, Farming Today and More4 films

News items on our web page were included in Dartmoor and region wide newsletters.

How to Bury the Giant In Moss & Moor picnic 14th May 2023



You're invited to a creative Picnic at Hangershell, Harford Moor

When? Sunday 14th May, 10:30am until 4pm

Where? Meet at Ivybridge train station, PL21 0DQ

What? Join us for an exploratory and immersive walk up on the peaty moor. Experience new ways of looking at our landscapes, the energy and carbon they hold, the water they manage, the history and heritage stories they tell. A 5 mile stroll across uneven moorland with pauses for creativity. Don't forget your picnic! For more info and to book your place visit www.HarfordMoorpicnic.eventbrite.com or email hello@artandenergy.org



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Still to do to lead into Phase 2 in July 2023

Two events - 14th May and 18th June 2023.

Final report with full feedback by 30 June 2023

Farms2City in 5 - 11 June (not DEF funded, but came out of it) to share this project in London. Test out The Mossy Carpet. (the woolly tufted, pom-pommed carpet)

Try to reach another 200 members for BurytheGiant.club so that we can share this work far and wide

Work with Plymouth University to research any difference this project may have made to the moor over the next 6 months.



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Evaluation and Research

What did the participants enjoy most?

Planting in the moss

Learning about agriculture

Finding out about the restoration

Seeing other people interested in sustainability

Exploring the moor in company of people who really know it

Getting reacquainted with the high moor.

Trampling the giant

Seeing the animals.

Being with people trying to make a difference

Hearing different perspectives without tension or conflict

The sensory experience of holding moss, squidgy mud

Meeting people of different backgrounds for a hopeful and positive event

Hearing the excitement and passion

Feeling a new investment in the moor because I planted in it

Evaluation and Research

Detailed feedback will be collected by the end of June

Sites will be visited over the next 6 months

www.artandenergy.org



Letters of support

From the Shallowford Trust:

The Shallowford Trust has very much enjoyed supporting Art and Energy with their How to Bury The Giant project. This project has inspired a wave of young people to develop an interest in not only the unique beauty of mosses through observational activities, but also in their important role in combating climate change. This project has developed increased community interest in peatland restoration, which is vital in contributing towards combating climate change. It has also inspired the Shallowford Trust to participate in the larger scale growing of sphagnum moss to improve the carbon capturing abilities and biodiversity of their rhos pasture habitat. The Shallowford Trust will continue to support this valuable project in whatever capacity it can as it sees the value in its contribution towards peatland restoration and conservation as well as community engagement.

From the Foundation for Common Land:

The best thing about working with Art and Energy is their willingness to collaborate with numerous organisations and individuals with different expertise and skillsets. This ensures that all their activities are engaging to those taking part and everyone leaves with new knowledge and excited to do their small bit for nature recovery and climate change.

Foundation for Common Land provided funding for Art & Energy to deliver a celebratory community event on Harford Moor, as part of Our Upland Commons Project. The day was a huge success. Commoners and Landowners were really pleased and surprised by the positive responses they received from the public, all of whom went away better informed about the value of commons for carbon sequestration as well as flood mitigation, recreation, heritage, biodiversity and food production.

Our relationship may have stopped when our funding support ended, but it didn't. Following the event Art & Energy continued to involve Dartmoor farmers and landowners as well as other Our Upland Commons project stakeholders in their education & community projects, including their webinars, social media, press and television coverage. As a result, a wider audience know more about the importance of commons and the heritage of commoning. We look forward to continuing to collaborate with Art & Energy and funding future projects.