

KENT'S PLAN BEE



February 2022 Summary Newsletter

Have you spotted our Bee Bus?

A new bus with an eye-catching design has recently joined the fleet of the Kent Thameside bus rapid transit service Fastrack. The double-decker, operated by Go Coach, has been designed to promote Kent's Plan Bee, and can be seen travelling between Dartford and Gravesend.

Included on the bus are images of the Shrilc carder bee, England's rarest bumblebee, chosen as a symbol for Fastrack as Thameside is part of only two small areas left in England where it is still found.

In line with KCC's pollinator action plan aims, KCC's Fastrack bus rapid transit service and the Plan Bee team are working to create a number of features throughout the Fastrack network between Dartford, Ebbsfleet and Gravesend that will help to boost the local populations of this rare wild bee and other pollinators. The Bee Bus is just the start of this story.

Let us know if you have seen the Bee Bus. We would love to see your pictures of it. Tag us on Facebook @KentsPlanBee or email them to planbee@kent.gov.uk



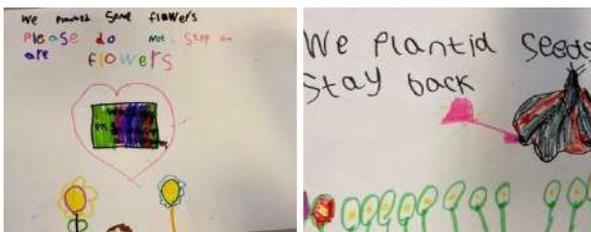
New Green Roof Bus Shelter and Bee Hotels in Wingham

We love all the great pollinator-friendly installations that have been added to [Wingham Parish](#) in the last month. These include two new bee & insect hotels (at Red Lion Corner Garden) and a green roof bus shelter, situated on the High Street opposite The Paddock.

The green roof shelter has been supplied by Externiture and has a sedum roof. Wingham Parish Council secured a grant from Kent County Council to cover most of the cost for this bee-friendly shelter, with the Parish Council covering the remainder. Both installations will be great in attracting and providing food and shelter for Wingham's pollinators.



Kent's Magnificent Moths work in Primary Schools in Kent



The Kent's Magnificent Moths team have been busy recently working with primary schools in Kent to educate the children about moths and help restore vital habitat the rare moths need.

In [East Stour Primary](#), the children are growing caterpillar food plants and re-wilding areas of their school. They also made signs to let the other children know what's going on.

[Brook Community Primary School](#) have been to Wye NNR where the children there spent the morning helping clear encroaching scrub to ensure grasslands were suitable for the moths and butterflies.

To see more of the project's work, visit the [Kent & SE Butterfly Conservation Facebook page](#).

The Buzz in our Village

This month Maria Himsworth, Volunteer at Kent Wildlife Trust & the Bumblebee Conservation Trust, gives us an insight into some of the work she has been involved with at Chillenden Village Hall Community Garden, and the pollinators and wildlife that have been helped through this work:

“Chillenden Village Hall Community Garden is a special place. Villagers get together from time to time to make it a haven for wildlife.

We have been creating habitat for wildlife of food, water, shelter, and a place to breed.

It has been an absolute delight to watch it blossom and buzz over the last two years since we first called the village to arms to plant a hedge around the perimeter.

Small steps have seen it develop and every season we do a little more.

We now have wildflower areas and long grass for pollinators. A pond built out of an old, donated water trough used as a watering hole and a place for amphibians.

We built a hibernaculum, a bug hotel, piled up dead wood and put up bird boxes for animals to nest, roost and hibernate.

We sow seeds that will grow into beautiful flowers for the residents to enjoy and share with the bees and butterflies and planted trees that flower in spring. Herbs have been added as a larder of food for caterpillars, flowers for pollinators and some culinary picks for the local residents.

It has not only provided nature with a home but also the village with a place to get together, have some fun, enjoy, and learn about nature.”



Thank you to our friends at Kent Wildlife Trust Wild About Gardens team, in particular volunteer Maria Himsworth, for providing this month's Wild About Gardens article.

What to see in March

Early spring pollinators are beginning to emerge in March. Some of the earliest include the **Hairy-footed flower bee** and **Red-tailed mason bee**, (males can be the earliest solitary bees to emerge from late Feb onwards, with females a couple of weeks later), and **Violet carpenter bee** queens.

Adult moths to look for include Early, Oak beauty, Emperor, as well as Brimstone moth and butterfly. Other **butterflies**

include Orange-tip, Holly blue (first brood), & Green hairstreak. **Wildflowers** to spot this month include Colt's-foot, Lesser Celandine, Marsh Marigold, Primrose, Red-dead Nettle, Violets, and Wood Anemone.

Spotted any of these or any other pollinators and wildflowers? Post them on our Facebook page, or tag us in your photos @KentsPlanBee

POLLINATORS TO SEE IN MARCH



Moths to See

Early Moth - *Theridion prima*
Oak Beauty - *Biston strataria*
Early Thorn - *Selenia dentaria*
March Moth - *Aisopha aescularia*
Brimstone Moth - *Opisthograpta luteolata*

Spotted any of these? Why not share them on our Facebook page @KentsPlanBee



Events in March & April

Wild About Gardens

Join Kent Wildlife Trust and their Wild About Gardens team for the last of their winter online events. Sign up online to the following events:

- **7th March:** [Wilder Lawns](#)
- **26th March:** [Using “weeds” and wildflowers in a traditional garden setting to attract bees, butterflies and moths.](#)
- There are lots of other online Kent Wildlife Trust events happening. Find these on the [Kent Wildlife Trust's event webpage](#).

The Open Gardens events begin on the 10th April, with the first taking place in [Wateringbury near Maidstone](#). Take these opportunities to gain ideas for your own wildlife-friendly gardens, plus talk to the Kent Wildlife Trust volunteers about how they achieved their gardens. These are all ticketed events with different time slots to allow plenty of space for all visitors, so please book ahead to avoid disappointment.



Kent's Magnificent Moths

Join the Kent's Magnificent Moths team online for a chat on how you can get involved with their project. Whether you are interested in surveying, photography or getting children involved and inspired, there is something for everyone.

The talk is happening on 5th April at 18:30. To get the Zoom link and a reminder, join the [Facebook event](#).



KENT CHILDREN'S UNIVERSITY EDUCATION PACK

A year's worth of seasonal pollinator activities designed to educate children of all ages
Download it from the KCU website

#KCUBeeChallenge



Keep up to date with the latest news via our [Kent's Plan Bee Facebook page](#)

If you received this email indirectly and would like to subscribe to our mailing list, please email us on the address below with the subject line "Sign Up". If you wish to unsubscribe from this mailing list, please email us on the address below with the subject line "Unsubscribe".

Do you have a Kent pollinator news story or event that you would like featured in our newsletter? Have you created a pollinator friendly community space? Got your neighbours together to create a row of pollinator friendly gardens? Or do you have an event about Kent's pollinators you would like advertised? Email it to the address below and we will be in contact about a potential space in the Newsletter.

planbee@kent.gov.uk

All the previous editions of the Newsletter have now been added to our webpage. You can download them as PDFs or share the website address on your social media. Find all the Newsletters on the [Pollinators section of Kent County Council's website](#).

Edited by Hannah Simmons, Graduate Biodiversity Officer, Kent County Council.

For a Pollinator Friendly Garden of England

