

KENT'S PLAN BEE



October 2021 Summary Newsletter

Public Perception of Pollinators Survey - Report Published



Kent County Council's Pollinator Action Plan

Public Perception of Pollinators Survey Report

September 2021

For a Pollinator Friendly Garden of England

Thank you to the thousands of people that completed our pollinator public perception survey back in May. We are grateful for all your answers and feedback from the survey. All the 4655 responses have been analysed over the summer and we have now produced a report showing the findings. It's great to see good understanding and support of pollinators in Kent, and we will use the data gathered to inform our work going forward.

For more details and to read the full report, head to our [Pollinator public perception survey report](#) webpage on the Kent County Council website.

Cuckoo Bumblebees

At the beginning of October, we shared some posts on the Cuckoo Bumblebees of Kent. As well as information on what a cuckoo bumblebee is, we also included how to identify 3 species of cuckoos, and their favourite flowers for you to incorporate into your gardens. If you missed any of these posts, we compiled all the information into a handy fact sheet, available to download from our [Facebook Information and Resources photo album](#).



Kingsmead Field, Canterbury – Wildflower Meadow Update

We are pleased to bring you a great update from Sian Pettman of the Friends of Kingsmead Field about the wildflower meadow they created this year:

“Each spring, the Friends of Kingsmead Field in Canterbury sow a new area of wildflowers to increase the field's floral diversity and improve its value for pollinators. This year, we chose Landlife's Traditional Meadow wildflower seed mix which contains 22 species of UK native wildflowers, most of which are perennial, with some additional cornfield annuals thrown in for good measure. We were fortunate to have the help of Canterbury City Council's contractor, Serco, in removing the topsoil. This reduced the land's fertility and gave the wildflowers a head start over the more vigorous grass species which were encroaching from the surrounding land. We then arranged for 20 volunteers to work in socially distanced groups to rake the ground, sow the seeds and water them (we are lucky to have the river Stour running alongside the field which provides an invaluable source of water). After six weeks of watering and waiting, we were rewarded with a beautiful floral display. The display has attracted a wide range of pollinators throughout the summer months and continues to attract some late flying bees into October.”



Photos showing the transformation of the meadow. Photo credits Simon Pettman

Autumn Gardening Tips – What to do in November?

Every part of your garden can provide food for pollinators at different stages in their life cycle.

Borders for pollen and nectar: Grow flowers all year round in a variety of shapes such as hellebores, wallflowers, foxgloves, honeysuckle, globe thistle, Japanese anemones, Michaelmas daisies (in bloom now). Choose simple flowers, not doubles that have extra petals. **Plant now:** perennial and annual seeds that benefit from frosting, e.g. 'cornfield' mixes.



Hellebore



Wallflower



Foxglove



Globe Thistle



Michaelmas daisy

Flower-rich lawns feed pollinators: Some butterfly larvae feed on long grass. Pollinators love meadow plants such as cowslips, scabious, oxeye daisies and knapweed. **Sow seed now:** yellow rattle to reduce grass's growth, enabling wildflowers to flourish. **Plant bulbs now:** snake's head fritillary in damp meadows.



Cowslip



Oxeye Daisy



Knapweed



Yellow Rattle



Snake's Head Fritillary

Trees and shrubs for pollen, nectar, and caterpillars: For year-round pollen and nectar: mahonia and fatsia japonica (autumn and winter), prunus and malus (spring), buddleia (summer). For butterflies and moths, plant trees and shrubs that will feed their larvae: blackthorn, hawthorn, salix such as goat willow. November to March is a good time for planting these.



Buddleia



Willow



Blackthorn produces sloe berries

Fruit and vegetable garden: Leave some parsnips in the ground to flower next year – insects love them, including natural pest controllers such as hoverflies. **Plant now:** fruit trees and bushes for pollen and nectar.



Parsnip



Blackberry

Thank you to our friends at Kent Wildlife Trust Wild About Gardens team, in particular volunteer Penny Brook, for providing the information for this month's Gardening Tips for Pollinators. Image Credits P Brook.

Sources

<https://www.rhs.org.uk/science/conservation-biodiversity/wildlife/plants-for-pollinators>

<https://www.bumblebeeconservation.org/gardeningadvice/>

Events Happening in November

Pollinator friendly gardening Event 30th Nov

Join Kent Wildlife Trust and their Wild About Gardens team for the first of their winter online events on Tuesday 30th November on Pollinator friendly gardening. In this session, you will learn how to encourage pollinators into your garden, along with the different types of pollinators, their lifecycles, habitat requirements, and lots more. This is a ticketed event with limited space so please head over to the [event webpage](#) to book your ticket and avoid disappointment.

There are lots of other online Wild About Garden events happening over the winter. Find these and other wildlife events on the [Kent Wildlife Trust's event webpage](#).

Wild About Gardens

Winter and Spring Workshops
on zoom, in your own home, only £5/session

	Tuesday 30 November 7.30 to 9pm Pollinator Friendly Gardening	
	Thursday 13 January 7.30 to 9pm Nature Friendly Gardening for Beginners	
	Wednesday 26 January 10.30am to 12 Managing Pests and Diseases in a Nature Friendly Way	
	Saturday 5 February 3pm to 5pm Building and Maintaining a Wildlife Pond	
	Monday 7 March 7.30 to 9pm Wildier Levins	
	Saturday 26 March 11am to 12.30pm Using Weeds and Wildflowers in a Traditional Garden to Attract Bees, Butterflies and Moths	

To book go to kentwildlifetrust.org.uk
or ring 01622 662012

FlightPath Community Art Project & Exhibition 23rd-27th Nov



Louisa Crispin has an interest in nature corridors and how wasps & other pollinators move between the barriers we impose on them. She is bringing this issue to light in her latest community art project FlightPath, creating concertina sculptures with drawings in the gaps to symbolise the issues facing pollinators in moving about our urban landscapes. You can see a selection of her work and responses already submitted to this project via Louisa's [website](#), [Instagram](#) & [Facebook](#) accounts or by searching #flightpathcommunityproject

Louisa will be displaying and talking about her project in an Exhibition at Kaleidoscope Gallery, Sevenoaks from 23rd-27th November. Read about the launch of the exhibition on her latest [blog post](#). Louisa will be at the Gallery from 10am to 4 pm daily, with a formal talk about the project on Saturday 27th November at 2pm. Everyone is welcome so please go along and support her.

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



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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.

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