

KENT'S PLAN BEE



May 2023 Summary Newsletter

No Mow May Review & Let It Bloom June

Last month, we were encouraging people to leave their lawns uncut for No Mow May. Thank you to everyone who signed our No Mow May Pledge. It was great to see so many people from across the whole of Kent taking part in this great cause.

We are still currently analysing the data, which we hope to bring to you as a report later this year. For now, we can reveal that we had 264 residents and organisations sign the No Mow May Pledge, which is fantastic for Kent's pollinators! We didn't quite meet the number of pledges set last year, but we are still amazed and grateful for how many people took part.



Photo credits to Bumblebee Conservation Trust

Now, will you keep your lawn uncut for Let It Bloom June? You have probably seen the fantastic number of flowers and pollinators that have begun to appear on your lawn, so why not leave it for another month, or even until the end of the summer if possible? The benefits of this include more late-summer flowers blooming, which will support pollinators for longer. Plus, once all the flowers have gone to seed, you have a free seed bank ready to start the process again next year! For more information on Let It Bloom June, check out the [Plantlife website](#) for their article on what to do next.

Busy Buzzy Bee

We are delighted to have been made aware of the Busy Buzzy Bee, a locally written children's book on bees. Originally a family-created lockdown project, this book has now been published and is a great tool for teaching young children about bees. The book is written in rhyme, following the life of the honeybee, and learning a few facts along the way. There is lots of repetition to capture young readers attention and teach them about the importance of bees and what they can do to help.

If you would like to find out more about this bee-riliant book, check out the author's Instagram, [Stacy Bax "Sydney Spider"](#), for the Busy Buzzy Bee and other children's books.

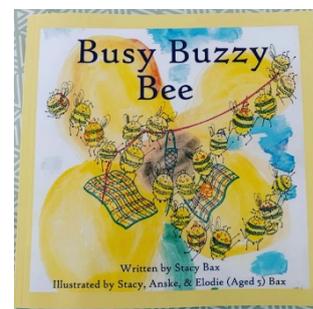


Photo credits: Stacy Bax

30 Days Wild for Pollinators



Photo credits: The Wildlife Trust

The Wildlife Trust's 30 Days Wild campaign is back again for 2023, and this year we are taking part again by going 30 Days Wild for Pollinators. Each day we will be posting a pollinator related activity on our [Facebook page](#). You can take part as well by completing these activities every day or plan your own month using our 30 Days Wild for Pollinators calendar, plus ideas from previous years or try one of the suggestions from our article below. Find the calendar and other ideas on [our website](#).

Going 30 Days Wild for Pollinators in your Garden!

There are lots of activities to help pollinators that you can complete in your garden everyday in June as part of 30 Days Wild.

Find out what's in your garden....

Do a PoMS FIT Count

If you want to try discovering which pollinators use your garden or local green space, why not have a go at Flower-Insect Timed Count (FIT counts)! Spend ten minutes watching flowers and insects in good weather. This simple survey collects data on the total number of insects that visit a particular flower, ideally chosen from the list of 14 target flowers. [PoMS FIT Counts](#) can be done anywhere, including gardens and parks, in warm, dry weather any time from April to September, and instantly uploaded to their app!

PoMS
UK Pollinator Monitoring Scheme



Other ways to find the pollinators in your garden

As great as a PoMS FIT count is, it only gives you a small snapshot of the pollinators in your garden. Try these other methods to find more pollinators.

- **Moth traps:** a [moth trap](#) is a great way to record which nocturnal moths and other insect are in your garden
- **Set up a wildlife camera:** to capture images of pollinators that may be deterred by your presence, point a camera at a patch of flowers to see which visitors are about when you're not
- **Complete a full BioBlitz of your garden:** spend the day recording all the species in your garden, from pollinators and flowers to other insects and wildlife you find. Then add all your data onto a recording app, such as [iRecord](#).



Give them a home...

If you are taking part in Let It Bloom June, then continuing to **leave your lawn uncut** will really help pollinators. Not only does it provide more flowers to feed pollinators, but the long grass can also be a home to many pollinators, including some bumblebee species that need long grass for their nests.

It's not just your lawn you could leave unmanaged, you could **leave a whole area of your garden dedicated to wildlife**. Leave leaf piles and dead wood in this part of the garden for pollinators, such as some beetle species, to use to complete their lifecycles.



As well as leaving parts of your garden for pollinators, you can also get creative and build them homes too. Build a:

- **Watering station:** As well as a nectar and pollen food source, pollinators also need [water to survive](#). Fill an old bird bath or water tray for a plant pot with some stones and a shallow amount of water. The stones stop the insects getting wet when drinking.
- **Bug hotel:** A [bug hotel](#) is a great way to provide space for solitary bees and other pollinators. Fill a container with hollow bamboo canes, pinecones, and other garden materials that will provide places for insects to shelter and lay their eggs.
- **Hoverfly lagoon:** Some hoverflies need standing water to lay their eggs in. Set up a [hoverfly lagoon](#) made from a plastic container, add grass or leaf litter, then fill with water.



Plant and plan your flowers for them...

You can always **plant more flowers** for pollinators. Make sure to have a range of flowers as each pollinator has their own needs when it comes to collecting nectar and pollen. Check out our [Plants for Pollinators infographic](#) on our Facebook page for more information on which flowers to plant to attract a variety of pollinators.

It's not just the adults that need a food source, many larvae, such as [moth](#) and [butterfly](#) caterpillars, also need certain plants to eat. These **food plants** are a vital part of a pollinator's lifecycle, so providing them in your garden is a great way to ensure their survival.



Seeds for the future - growing up flowers from seeds and collecting seeds

Growing up seeds from your own plants is a great cost-effective way to add more flowers to your garden, and more flowers is always great news for pollinators and other insects. Collecting seeds and swapping them with your neighbours is also another way to help out this month. Or think even bigger and plan a community event in the autumn for everyone to exchange seeds.

Pollinators to see in June

June is prime time for many of Kent's pollinators. Get outside and see how many you can spot from the list below:

Bees: Silvery Leafcutter Bee, *Megachile leachella*, Common Yellow Face Bee, *Hylaeus communis*

Moths: Six-spot Burnet, *Zygaena filipendulae*, Privet Hawk-moth, *Sphinx ligustri*

Butterflies: Heath Fritillary, *Melitaea athalia*, Marbled White, *Melanargia galathea*, Meadow Brown, *Maniola jurtina*

Beetles: Noble chafer, *Gnorimus nobilis*, Red-headed Cardinal Beetle, *Pyrochroa serraticornis*

Wasps: Black Slip Wasp, *Pimpla rufipes*

Flies/ hoverfly: Hedgehog Flies, *Tachina fera*, Lesser Hornet Hoverfly, *Volucella inanis*, Ladybird Flies, *Gymnosoma rotundatum*

Wildflowers to spot this month include bird's foot trefoil, agrimony, dog rose, bugle, viper's bugloss, bramble, honeysuckle, red clover, wild carrot, foxglove, yellow archangel, orchids, poppies, selfheal.

POLLINATORS TO SEE IN JUNE



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



Spotted any of these or any other pollinators and wildflowers? Post them on our [Facebook page](#), tag us in your photos @KentsPlanBee or [email us](#) your photos.

Upcoming Events

Wild About Open Gardens

The Wild About Open Garden events are back! The next event is on 11 June in Gravesend, plus many more throughout the summer. Book onto these and other events through the [Kent Wildlife Trust website](#).

- Sun 11 Jun 1-5pm: 68 South Hill Road, Gravesend, DA12 1JZ
- Sat 17 Jun 1-5pm: 1 Victoria Close, Edenbridge, TN8 5BT
- Sat 24 Jun 1-5pm: Myrtle House, Headcorn Road, Grafty Green, Maidstone, ME17 2AR
- Sun 25 Jun 1-5pm: Endymion, Perry Wood, Selling, Faversham, ME813 9SF
- Sat 3 Sep 1-5pm: Lacey Down, 22 Canterbury Road, Lydden, Dover, CT15 7ER
- Sat 9 Sep 1-5pm: Bearsted, near Maidstone
- Sat 16 Sep 1-5pm: Langdon Court, near Faversham

The Great Big Green Weekend

The Great Big Green Week is happening 10-18 June and is a celebration of community actions tackling climate change and protecting nature. There are plenty of events happening across the county. Check out the map on the [Kent Green Actions Let's Talk page](#) for events happening near you.

Pollinator events are taking place across the county including:

- Nature Friendly Open Garden in Gravesend, 11 June, 1pm-430pm
- Wilder Kent Safari: Morning at Nashenden, 14 June, 10am-1pm
- Wilder Kent Safari: Heath Fritillaries at East Blean, 15 June 10am-12pm
- Nature Friendly Open Garden in Edenbridge, 17 June, 1pm-430pm
- Bio Blitz at Conningbrook lakes, 18 June, timing to be confirmed

Make sure to book ahead where necessary.

THE GREAT
BIG GREEN
WEEK



KENT
GREEN
ACTION

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

