



GET MILLBROOK BUZZING!

Spring Newsletter 2016



Why are insect pollinators important?

Many of our wild plants and food crops are pollinated by a huge variety of insects including bees, hoverflies and butterflies. Pollinators and the habitats they depend on are under threat. We can help them by providing more flowers, shelter and places to nest.

Five simple steps you can take to help pollinators

- 1. Plant for pollinators** Grow more nectar- and pollen-rich flowers, shrubs and trees.
- 2. Leave patches of land to grow wild.** Wildflowers are important for insects and undisturbed areas make good nesting sites.
- 3. Put away the pesticides.** They can harm bees and other beneficial invertebrates,
- 4. Leave your mower in the shed.** Cut grass less often, to allow plants to flower. If possible remove the cuttings after you mow longer grass.
- 5. Make a bee house.** Drill holes in a log or bundle up lengths of bamboo to provide nesting sites for solitary bees.



Get Millbrook Buzzing's vision

is for anyone living and working in the Millbrook area to help transform gardens and open spaces into a village-wide nature reserve.



If we connect habitats and green spaces, we can create wildlife corridors - 'green highways' enabling wildlife to move easily between our gardens and the neighbouring countryside.

Let's turn Millbrook into a nature reserve

Together we can create a nature-rich village that puts wildlife right on our doorsteps, giving everyone the opportunity to experience the joy of wildlife every day.

Did you know.....

that a Bumblebee can travel up to 6km to visit certain flowers - that's the equivalent of you walking around the world 10x to get to the shops !!



Get inspired and inspire others!

Are you already doing something amazing for wildlife? Perhaps you've planted wildlife-friendly flowers in your garden or at work? Put out bird seed, made a hedgehog shelter or dug a pond? Or even planted some trees or a hedgerow?

Tell us about your wildlife activities and we'll publish them on the Millbrook wildlife map to share with our community. We'll give you a different coloured star depending on how many things you've done. Go to the Millbrook Parish Council website and look for *My Nature Haven*.

We'd also love you to inspire others with whatever it is you're doing.

Upcoming Event

Wildflower Planting in Millbrook Park

17th April 2016 10.00am - 1.00pm

Meet by the New Road entrance and please bring a trowel



Thank You!

Special thanks are due to the Village Enhancement Team and everyone else who's helped out.

Contact Bruce Taggart, Parish Councillor
Co-ordinator, Get Millbrook Buzzing Project
Email: taggart.bruce@gmail.com

Top ten plants for pollinators

The Royal Horticultural Society has selected some favourite bee loving plants for your garden and now is the time to plant them. Look out for the RHS 'Perfect for Pollinators' logo in the garden centre.



1. **Caryopteris** *Caryopteris x clandonensis*
2. **Sweet William** *Dianthus barbatus*
3. **Dame's Violet** *Hesperis matronalis*
4. **Hyssop** *Hyssopus officinalis*
5. **Common jasmine** *Jasminum officinale*
6. **English lavender** *Lavandula angustifolia*
7. **Rose campion** *Lychnis coronaria*
8. **Bergamot or Bee balm** *Monarda didyma*
9. **Purple top** *Verbena bonariensis*
10. **Weigelia** *Weigela florida*

There are hundreds more garden and wild plants listed on the RHS website. Try to grow a range of plants for year-round flowering and avoid plants with double or multi-petalled flowers.

Find out more from
www.rhs.org/perfectforpollinators
www.millbrook-pc.gov.uk



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