

KENT'S PLAN BEE



September 2022 Summary Newsletter

Kent's Plan Bee Members Visit the Wilder Blean Project

Some of Kent's Plan Bee members recently took a trip to the Kent Wildlife Trust's Wilder Blean project to learn about the bison work and what that means for the pollinators that also live in the West Blean and Thornden Woods.

It was great to hear about the extensive monitoring of the site and that the area already has good invertebrate diversity. One species of note is the nationally rare Heath Fritillary butterfly that can only be found in Kent in the Blean. The work Kent Wildlife Trust and the bison are doing will hopefully continue to improve the woodland for pollinators and other wildlife and provide a valuable green corridor for their movement.

Thank you, Kent Wildlife Trust, for an interesting visit and we look forward to seeing further results of the bison project!

For more information on the Wilder Blean project, go to the [Kent Wildlife Trust website](#) or follow their Facebook page for regular updates.



Members with our Kent Wildlife Trust hosts



Sites from the walk, including the art trail and a bug hotel

Biojoyversity Website Launched



Biojoyversity have recently launched their [new website](#). This student led project recently won the Reconnect Kent's Hackathon prize which allowed them to create their website for nature, the climate and innovation.

The main aim is for students and schools to come together to create a community of young people who share a passion for leaving a positive mark on the world. The website is full of ideas and activities on how to tackle climate change and protect nature, and they are always encouraging more schools and students from Kent and around the world to get involved. For more information, visit their [website](#) or watch their [introduction video](#) on YouTube.

Organic September and The Great Big Green Week

There was lots to celebrate in September during the [Great Big Green Week](#) and [Organic September](#).

Here's a list of tips we posted on making your garden and life greener:

- [Growing organic herbs](#) and [native flowers](#) to benefit pollinators.
- [Going chemical-free organic in the garden](#) or even [try climate-friendly gardening!](#)
- Before 23rd October, [gather seeds and nuts](#) to plant next year. It's a sustainable way to renew the flowers in your garden and benefits your finances too as you don't have to buy new seeds.



Trees, shrubs, and climbers add interest and insect life to a garden

Autumn is a great time to plant trees, shrubs, and climbers; they can start establishing before the stresses of next summer. They beautify the garden and support insect life throughout the whole year.

Choose the right ones and you can benefit insects by providing:

- Hedges to shelter flowery foraging places
- Shelter for roosting and over-wintering
- Pollen and nectar all year
- Food for larvae, especially moths
- Nest chamber material (e.g., rose leaves) for leafcutter bees



All parts of trees, shrubs and climbers may be useful

Larvae have different feeding preferences. Leaves, stems and branches of trees and shrubs and even the lichen that grows on them can feed larvae. Crevices in bark provide pupation and over-wintering sites. Clematis, buckthorn, poplar, holly, ivy, fuchsia, fruit trees, willows, hops, honeysuckle, and lichen are some of the foods for larvae of these butterflies and moths.



Clouded Yellow, Small Emerald, Poplar Hawk Moth, Holly Blue, Elephant Hawk Moth, Leopard moth and Rosey Footman

Some plants feed larvae and provide pollen and nectar: They include goat willow, blackthorn, hawthorn, fruit trees and bushes, honeysuckle, and ivy.



Pollen and nectar all year

Winter and early spring: sweet box, mahonia, goat willow, blackthorn



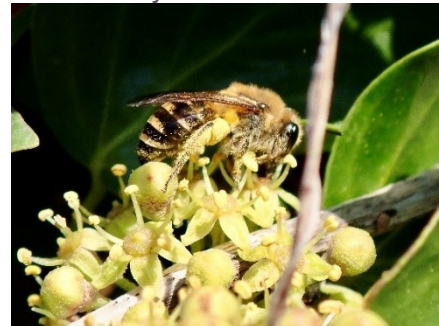
Spring: Japanese quince, ceanothus, flowering currant, fruit trees, rosemary



Summer: buddleia, lavender, pyracantha, dog rose, honeysuckle, *Jasminum officinale*



Late summer and autumn: caryopteris, fatsia japonica, common ivy



Further information:

[Gardening for a Wilder Kent](#)

[Butterfly Conservation: Gardening for moths](#)

[Butterfly Conservation: Caterpillar food plants for moths](#)

[Butterfly Conservation: Nectar plants for moths](#)

[Butterfly Conservation: Caterpillar food plants for butterflies](#)

[Royal Horticultural Society: Planting trees and shrubs](#)

[Royal Horticultural Society: Plants for pollinators](#)

Thank you to our wonderful Wild About Gardens volunteer Penny Brook for writing this month's article.

Photo credits: P Brook

Pollinators to see in October

October really is the last chance to see many pollinators before they hibernate, ready to appear again next spring.

Bees: most of the bumblebee species (especially queens looking for overwintering site), Ivy Mining bee, & Sea Aster bee.

Moths: Plenty still to see! A couple of immigrant hawkmoths may make an appearance, but lots of autumn specialists, along with those having a second brood, including Silver Y, Merveille du Jour and Frosted Orange.

Butterflies: Butterflies are mostly going to be those that had a late second brood, or overwinter as adults, such as Clouded Yellow, Painted Lady, Commas, Peacocks, and Red Admirals.

Wasps: Hornet, German and Common wasp

Flies/ hoverfly: Many of the hoverflies may still be seen on warmer days but this is a last hurrah, look for Batman, Hornet mimic, Sunfly, and Drone fly. Several blowflies can still be seen.

Wildflowers to spot this month include Bristly Oxtongue, Ivy, Gorse, Corn Marigold, Dandelion, Daisy, Greater Plantain, Red Deadnettle, White Campion, and White Deadnettle.

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.

POLLINATORS TO SEE IN OCTOBER



Red-tailed bumblebee
Bombus lapidarius



Clouded Yellow
Colias croceus



Silver Y
Autographa gamma



European Hornet
Vespa crabro



Common Drone Fly
Eristalis tenax



Others to See
Ivy Mining bee - *Colletes hederae*
Painted Lady - *Vanessa cardui*
Batman hoverfly - *Myathropa florea*
Merveille du Jour - *Dichonia aprilina*
Frosted Orange - *Gortyna flavago*

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



Events in October

Half Term Boredom Busters

Use the activities from our [Kent Children's University Pollinator Challenge](#) pack to beat the boredom this October half term. There are plenty of autumn activities, including looking for autumn pollinators, building a bug hotel, sowing seeds, and planting bulbs ready for next spring.



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



Check out our [30 Days Wild packs](#) as well for more ideas. Finally, Christmas is coming, so why not start early by making some pollinator themed decorations using our [12 Days of Pollinators](#) instructions. Make them spooky for Halloween by using black, green, and orange colours.



Wild About Gardens

The online workshops are back! The next Wild About Gardens event taking place on [20th Oct is about hedgehogs](#). You can book onto these events through the [Kent Wildlife Trust website](#).

Wild About Gardens

AUTUMN ZOOM ONLINE WORKSHOPS

Thursday 20 October 7.30-9pm : Helping Hedgehogs in gardens
Saturday 12 November 3-5pm : Building & Maintaining a wildlife pond

£5 per person
Booking advisable

Scan to find out more and to book your open garden ticket

Or book here:
01622 662012
kentwildlifetrust.org.uk/wilder-gardens

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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.

For a Pollinator Friendly Garden of England

