



**Caru Gwenyn**  
**Bee Friendly**



Llywodraeth Cymru  
Welsh Government

## **ACTION GUIDE**

Everything you need to know to make your organisation or community Pollinator-Friendly.

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“ POLLINATORS ARE AMAZING. THEY’RE A HUGE PART OF THE CYCLE OF LIFE AND WITHOUT THEM, MANY OF THE FLOWERS, FRUITS AND VEGETABLES WON’T BE POLLINATED AND MANY THINGS ON EARTH WOULD HAVE NO FOOD. ”

Finn Collister (aged 9)



# WELCOME TO THE BEE FRIENDLY ACTION GUIDE

Bees, butterflies and other pollinators are in trouble due to a variety of factors.

The good news, however, is that we can help.

And our **Bee Friendly** scheme aims to do just that!

This initiative is aimed at communities and community organisations.

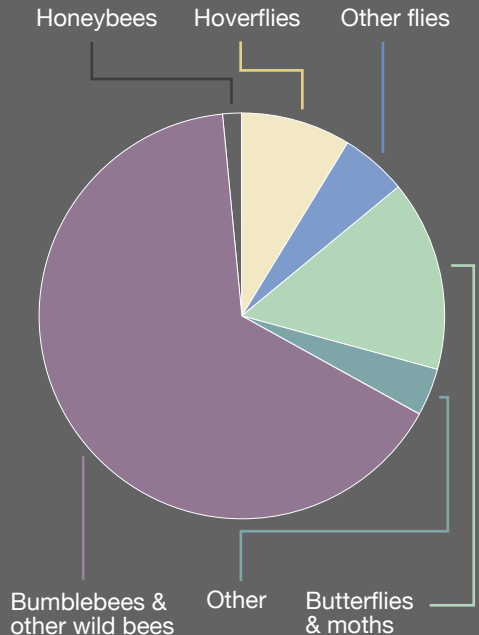
## DID YOU KNOW?

They may be tiny but bees are essential to a healthy environment and healthy economy. We rely on them and other insects to pollinate lots of our fruit and vegetables – it would cost UK farmers £1.8 billion a year to pollinate their crops without bees.

We think Bee Friendly is the first co-ordinated national scheme of its kind and has at its heart – making Wales a Pollinator-Friendly country.

## DID YOU KNOW?

Honey bees are NOT the only insect pollinators in Britain. Wild pollinators include bumblebees and other bees, butterflies and moths, flies and various other insects such as beetles, wasps and thrips. The chart below represents visits by pollinators that were studied at one site. Even this limited study shows that there is a great diversity of insect pollinators, and that honeybees are only a very small part of the picture. Pollinators with many different-shaped mouthparts are needed to pollinate different-shaped flowers.



Pie chart constructed using data from transect recording of insect-plant visitation in an ancient hay meadow at Shelfranger, Norfolk by Lynn Dicks in 1999. Dicks, Corbet & Pywell (2002) compartmentalization in plant-insect flower visitor webs. J Animal Ecology 71, 32-43.

# IS IT ONLY BEES THEN?

**No – all pollinators are included.**

Pollinators include honey bees, bumble bees and solitary bees, some wasps, butterflies, moths and hoverflies, and some beetles and flies.

If a bee or a moth or a butterfly could talk, what do you think they would ask of us? Probably to look after and enhance their food sources, to protect and enhance places they live and shelter in, to stop using chemicals that can be harmful, and to tell as many people as possible about the issues they face – so that more and more people get involved and take action.

This is why we are asking you to join with us in taking action on 4 main themes – **FOOD, FIVE STAR ACCOMMODATION (HABITAT), FREEDOM FROM PESTICIDES AND FUN** – to create a nation of Pollinator-Friendly communities, schools, businesses, universities, colleges, public bodies, places of worship and other organisations.

So if you would like to live in a **Bee Friendly Town** or **Community**, or work for a **Bee Friendly Business**, or study at a **Bee Friendly School, University or College**, for example, then read on to find out more about our fun scheme.

Together we can make a real difference to pollinators in Wales as we aim to become the first Pollinator-Friendly nation in the world!

## DID YOU KNOW?

97% of traditional lowland grassland meadows in England and Wales were lost between 1930-87. Although the rate of decline has slowed, remaining semi-natural grasslands continue to be lost.



photo credit: Liam Olds



## HOW DID WE GET HERE?

Many groups and individuals have been working to protect species, habitats, nature and ecosystems in Wales for many years.

In 2013, the Welsh Government launched an action plan to protect pollinators in Wales, called the Action Plan for Pollinators<sup>1</sup> which was updated in 2018<sup>2</sup>.

A Taskforce group of organisations and individuals was set up to look into ways of implementing the action plan.

## WHY HELP POLLINATORS?

- » Pollinator populations have been in severe decline for the past thirty years. There is evidence for widespread declines in solitary bees, bumblebees, and some hoverflies.
- » Pollinators are essential to pollinate commercial crops, soft fruit, orchards, horticultural crops, and wild and garden flowers.
- » Diverse and attractive natural environments are good for pollinators, and are good for people too.
- » Natural green spaces and contact with wildlife is essential for our wellbeing.
- » The buzz of bees creates a sense of place and is the sound of our summer.
- » Many pollinators, especially flies and moths, are vital food for birds. It is not only the buzz of bees we want to bring back to our communities, but the cries of swifts and housemartins as they swoop across the rooftops.



<sup>1</sup> <https://gov.wales/docs/desh/publications/130723-pollinator-action-plan-en.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> <https://gov.wales/docs/desh/publications/180921-action-plan-for-pollinator-review-future-actions-en.pdf>

# BEE FRIENDLY

The **Bee Friendly** scheme is a fun and innovative way to help get communities and organisations across Wales active in learning more about pollinators and habitats, and finding local solutions to help bees and other pollinators to thrive. Enhancing the natural environment in this way will also make places more attractive for local people and visitors and add to a community's sense of wellbeing.

Although the scheme is called **Bee Friendly**, we want people to take action to help all our pollinators, and not just bees.

**Bee Friendly** is divided into four themes. The first three themes reflect what pollinators need to thrive; an environment which has varied and nutritious food sources, water, and nesting sites and is free from pollution and pesticides. The fourth theme reflects the importance of community engagement and inclusion.

The four themes are:

1. **Food** providing pollinator-friendly food sources in your area.
2. **Five Star accommodation** providing places for insect pollinators to live.
3. **Freedom from pesticides (this includes insecticides and herbicides)** committing to avoid chemicals that harm pollinators.
4. **Fun** involving all the community and telling people why you are helping pollinators.

As community groups and organisations, or public bodies with local stakeholders, or businesses with local customers, you are ideally placed to know the most appropriate action that you can take in your area. The opportunities for action for a school in Newport, for example, may be different to those for a village in Anglesey or a business in Newtown.

We have offered some suggestions for actions based on our previous experiences but we would very much encourage you to work out your own plan of action that takes into

consideration the possibilities and opportunities available in your community or organisation.

The following pages offer some ideas for action with some links for more information.

You can find some case studies to inspire you on the Wales Biodiversity Partnership website<sup>3</sup>.

The most important thing though is to have some fun with this scheme and to involve as many people as possible in becoming **Bee Friendly**. Remember it's not just about bees, it's about all pollinators – you can take action to encourage hoverflies, butterflies, and moths.



photo credit: Jan Miller at [www.7wells.co.uk](http://www.7wells.co.uk)



## CASE STUDY – ST DAVIDS

St Davids Bee Friendly initiative encourages businesses, residents and community groups to help combat the decline of insect pollinators by providing them with food and habitat and reducing pesticide use. Acres of new wildflower meadows have been sown, pollinator friendly plants bloom outside businesses and gardens and bilingual education boards inform visitors about the variety and importance of British pollinators. Once a year, the St Davids Open Gardens weekend sees homeowners open their wildlife friendly gardens to the public too. The St Davids Bee Friendly initiative, coordinated by The Bug Farm, has helped the city become a sanctuary for pollinators and a haven for people wanting to learn more about them. One of the main attractions of the Bee Friendly city is the St Davids Pollinator Trail, an interactive and educational trail that links businesses across the peninsula. Each business showcases a specific insect pollinator with Welsh artwork and information beside the pollinator habitat. For more information, or to download the spotter guide and map, see the St Davids Pollinator Trail webpage<sup>4</sup>.

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.biodiversitywales.org.uk/Wales-Action-Plan-for-Pollinators>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.thebugfarm.co.uk/pollinator-trail/>



## SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

The Welsh Government's Natural Resources Policy sets out our three national priorities for managing Wales' natural resources. These have been developed to support the delivery of our programme for Government and the national strategy 'Prosperity for All' which supports its delivery. The priorities also embed the contribution of our Natural Resources across all the Well-being Goals, and take an integrated, long term approach in line with our new ways of working.

The three priorities are:

- » Delivering nature-based solutions
- » Increasing renewable energy and resource efficiency, and
- » Taking a place-based approach.

These priorities have been designed to work together to help us to tackle challenges and realise opportunities that our natural resources provide, including taking action to support pollinators.

We will align our policies to the delivery of these priorities, and use the framework from our Welsh legislation to drive action.

## GETTING INVOLVED WITH BEE FRIENDLY

What do we do?

The idea is that together, we work towards a Wales where more people know more about the issues affecting pollinators, and are taking more action to protect them and their habitats and food sources. If we all work together we can hopefully add the title of Wales being the world's first Pollinator-Friendly Nation to that of Wales being the world's first Fair Trade Nation.

Our idea is that groups taking part in this scheme pick out **at least one idea** for action **from all of the 4 themes** in the following pages. We have suggested some ideas to help your thinking but if you have other ideas for actions within these themes that you think are appropriate to your area or organisation then please feel free to incorporate these ideas.

The most important thing is that all participating schemes work on at least one idea from each of the 4 Themes (**FOOD, FIVE STAR ACCOMMODATION (HABITAT), FREEDOM FROM PESTICIDES AND FUN**).

## A suggested plan of action:

- » Get together with like-minded individuals within your community organisation or business to work out an action plan for your scheme.
- » Contact your local Bee Champion at the beginning of your project as they help you work out what your ideas are for the Food Theme, the Five Star Accommodation theme, the Freedom From Pesticides theme and the Fun theme. (Pick out ideas that you think are relevant to your area or organisation and try to pick ideas that are achievable and fun. This will make things much easier, especially if you are a new group.)
- » Let us know that you wish to take part by filling in the application form on the Wales Biodiversity Partnership website.
- » Advertise in your local area to let people know what you are doing and invite more people to join your project.
- » Publicise what you are doing through social media – use photos to show the difference you have made.
- » Tell us your progress across all 4 themes. Flower-Insect Timed Counts, developed by the Pollinator Monitoring Scheme (PoMS)<sup>5</sup>, can be used as a method of monitoring pollinators. Remember to carry out your survey when the weather conditions are suitable and send in your data to iRecord even if you have not seen insects visiting your target plants.
- » Use Polli:Nation<sup>6</sup> resource materials to help your school carry out a survey. Don't forget to upload your records onto the OPAL website.
- » Celebrate officially becoming a **Bee Friendly** Town, Community or Community Group, a **Bee Friendly** Business, a **Bee Friendly** School, University or College, a **Bee Friendly** Public Body or other type of organisation or group.
- » Let everyone know what you are doing. Publicise and share your achievements by posting any photos and experiences on the Bee Friendly Wales Facebook page and on Twitter using the hashtag #BeeFriendly.

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.ceh.ac.uk/our-science/projects/pollinator-monitoring>

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.polli-nation.co.uk/>



photo credit: Jan Miller at [www.7wells.co.uk](http://www.7wells.co.uk)



## BEE FRIENDLY – THE 4 THEMES

THEME 1 – FOOD –  
PROVIDE POLLINATOR-  
FRIENDLY FOOD SOURCES  
IN YOUR AREA

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

What did you have for  
breakfast today?

Jam on toast?

Fresh fruit?

Dried fruit in your muesli or  
some grilled tomatoes with  
your fry-up?

Maybe fruit juice or a coffee?

All of this was brought to you  
by bees. It's tempting to think  
bees just provide us with  
honey – but in fact they're  
behind much of the food we  
eat, including most fruit and  
vegetables.

Bees are crucial to our  
economy – without them  
it would cost UK farmers  
£1.8 billion a year to pollinate  
our crops. In a world without  
bees, our food would cost  
a lot more to produce and  
our economy would take a  
big hit<sup>7</sup>.

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.foe.co.uk/sites/default/files/downloads/20-things-you-need-know-about-bees-booklet-47366.pdf>

## DID YOU KNOW?

Pollinators need food in the form of pollen and nectar foraged from a variety of flowering plant species; and diverse vegetation structure, e.g. hedgerows, scrub and tall grass for shelter, nesting and overwintering such as burrows and holes in tree trunks. The larval stages of many pollinators also have many differing requirements. In order to support a variety of pollinator species, nectar sources need to be available from early spring through to late autumn.

Ideas for actions – choose one of these or come up with your own and tell us about it

» Identify areas that already provide a very good food source for pollinators, for example; flowering hedgerows, patches of wildflowers on waste ground, areas of bramble or ivy and flowering meadows. Work with landowners to protect these or manage them more sensitively.

- » Provide pollinator-friendly food areas – Sow seeds and take cuttings of some of the plants for pollinators list on the Wales Biodiversity website<sup>8</sup> which includes a selection of forage plants useful for adult butterflies, moths, hoverflies, bumblebees and solitary bees (which together make up the vast majority of pollinators in Wales). Plants recommended as larval food plants for butterflies and some moths have also been included.
- » Remember that butterflies and moths have different needs to bees in terms of their larval food plants. Plant appropriate native species which supply suitable food for their caterpillars.
- » Leave wild areas to allow larval food plants such as nettles to grow.
- » Unlike bees, adult butterflies and moths need nectar but do not eat pollen. Grow night-scented plants which are good for moths.

- » Create wildflower meadows, or plant cultivated flowers, shrubs or trees that provide pollen and nectar for bees and other pollinators e.g. in parks, road verges, civic spaces, playing fields, and on land around offices and depots. Check to see if your site falls within a B-Line<sup>9</sup> and add your details to Buglife's interactive map.
- » Sow native wildflower mixes. However, do not sow in areas that are already naturally wild. Seeds could be wasted as they will have difficulty growing and competing with the grass already there. Introducing species that are not native to the wild area could disturb the natural balance and damage it. Never plant Invasive Non-Native Species in naturally wild areas or areas where they can escape into the wild.
- » Cut grass less often. Aim to provide long grass that caterpillars can eat and shelter in, and flowers that adult pollinators can feed from. If appearance is important, try mowing a one metre-wide strip around the edge of wildlife meadows to emphasise that the area is a managed feature and not just neglected. To allow butterflies to complete their life cycle, find an area of grass, divide it in half and cut the halves in alternate years so there is always a safe refuge for caterpillars. If you need to cut, reduce cuts to 2-3 times and cut as late as possible. Leave some grass longer; preferably cutting only once a year. Remove grass cuttings to prevent smothering of delicate herbs by cut grass. Allow flowering herbs to flower and set seed.
- » Work with local householders to encourage them to grow pollinator friendly flowers and plants. Aim to have plenty of nectar-bearing flowers out in as many months as possible, including early spring and late summer and autumn. It is important to have landowner's permission.
- » In gardens, encourage the use of open-shaped flowers where insects can reach the nectar and pollen.
- » Plant more old-fashioned varieties of plant which tend to have more nectar than more modern forms and hybrids, and choose varieties with single flowers.

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.buglife.org.uk/b-lines-hub/wales>



» Manage hedges, ditches and banks on rotation. Hedges, ditches and banks can be a haven for pollinators not only providing vital food sources but also egg laying, hibernation and nesting sites. Sensitive management of these areas helps to connect larger habitat patches and sustain healthy populations. Bumblebee Conservation<sup>10</sup> has produced a fact sheet on how to manage hedges, ditches and banks.

## DID YOU KNOW?

The Holly Blue Butterfly is so called because its caterpillars can only eat Holly in the spring or Ivy in the autumn. This is why native wild plants are so important for butterflies; often their caterpillars can only eat one specific plant.

Holly Blue also overwinter as an egg on Holly bushes. Therefore, rotational cutting for hedges (not cutting a hedge ever year or cutting each side alternately) is also important.



photo credit: Jan Miller at [www.7wells.co.uk](http://www.7wells.co.uk)

<sup>10</sup> [https://www.bumblebeeconservation.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/BBCT\\_Land\\_Factsheet\\_6\\_Managing\\_hedges\\_edges.pdf](https://www.bumblebeeconservation.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/BBCT_Land_Factsheet_6_Managing_hedges_edges.pdf)

## THEME 2 – FIVE STAR ACCOMMODATION – GIVING PLACES FOR INSECT POLLINATORS TO LIVE

### WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

Since 1900, the UK has lost 20 species of bee, and a further 35 are considered under threat of extinction. Buglife's Wales Threatened Bee Report<sup>11</sup>, published in 2018, reports that seven bee species have been lost from Wales, five species are currently at risk of extinction and the range of many others has significantly decreased. None are protected by law. Across Europe nearly one in ten wild bee species face extinction.

### DID YOU KNOW?

Bee and pollinator health and declining populations have been increasingly highlighted as a cause for concern in the UK and globally. Honeybees showed a 23% decline in Wales between 1985 and 2005. Butterflies, hoverflies and many species of moth are also declining across Wales. Wildflower meadows and other important semi-natural habitats have also decreased in area.

## IDEAS FOR ACTIONS – CHOOSE ONE OF THESE OR COME UP WITH YOUR OWN AND TELL US ABOUT IT

- » Create suitable habitats for hoverflies to lay eggs in, promoting pollinators in your garden by creating a hoverfly lagoon<sup>12</sup>, a pond or “boggy places”.
- » Create bee banks<sup>13</sup> and avoid destroying existing nesting habitats for ground nesting solitary bees and bumblebees.
- » Identify and protect or provide areas of long grass, hollow trees, cavities large and small in walls for bees to nest inside.
- » Identify areas of short mown grass, embankments or earth banks that currently support colonies of ground-nesting bees.
- » Identify old walls that currently support colonies of solitary bees nesting in crumbly mortar, and ensure that these walls are not re-built or re-pointed without making arrangements to retain the solitary bees.
- » Develop and maintain strips of tussocky grass (cut every 2-3 years to prevent scrub invasion) as nesting areas for above-ground-nesting bumble bee species.

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.buglife.org.uk/wales-threatened-bee-report-0>

<sup>12</sup> <https://www.thebuzzclub.uk/hoverfly-lagoons>

<sup>13</sup> <https://www.buglife.org.uk/sites/default/files/Bee%20bank%20booklet.pdf>

- » Plant a thicket of Goat Willow (*Salix caprea*), the leaves of which provide food for caterpillars, and the flowers of which are an early-season pollen source for queen bumblebees.
- » Plant a hedgerow of native shrub species and manage it in a rotation<sup>14</sup>.
- » Install bee hives on your land (see the Welsh Beekeepers Association (WBKA) website<sup>15</sup>) to find out what is involved in this, and links to Beekeeping Associations throughout Wales.
- » Build and maintain<sup>16</sup> at least one bee/bug hotel in a suitable location (in full sun, facing south or south east, a metre off the ground, with no vegetation blocking the entrance, and with a strong roof to deflect rain). Monitor the bug hotel from year to year, cleaning and replacing nesting tubes and materials as necessary. A bug hotel provides space for solitary insects to nest in. They are fascinating to watch and a good way of learning about solitary bees.



photo credit: © Laura Curry

<sup>14</sup> [https://www.bumblebeeconservation.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/BBCT\\_Land\\_Factsheet\\_6\\_Managing\\_hedges\\_edges.pdf](https://www.bumblebeeconservation.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/BBCT_Land_Factsheet_6_Managing_hedges_edges.pdf)

<sup>15</sup> <http://www.wbka.com/>

<sup>16</sup> <http://www.foxleas.com/make-a-bee-hotel.asp>

## **THEME 3 – FREEDOM FROM PESTICIDES (THIS INCLUDES INSECTICIDES AND HERBICIDES) – AVOIDING CHEMICALS THAT HARM POLLINATORS.**

### **WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?**

In recent years, there have been increasing concerns about certain pesticides called neonicotinoids. They are a systemic pesticide which means they are taken up by the plant and transported to all the tissues (leaves, flowers, roots and stems, as well as pollen and nectar).

Recent research suggests that three neonicotinoid pesticides (clothianidin, imidacloprid and thiamethoxam) may have an adverse impact on the health of bees. Such concerns led the European Commission to completely ban the outdoor use of the three neonicotinoids and restrict their use to greenhouses from December 2018.

There are a number of ways you can control pests, weeds and diseases without using pesticides. Adopting an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) approach can help you do this. An IPM approach offers the opportunity to eliminate or markedly reduce the use of pesticides. It does this by using a range of alternative techniques, such as:

- » Choosing plants well suited to local conditions and, where possible, which have natural resistance to pests and diseases.
- » Providing good care for your plants such as suitable drainage, crop rotations, mulching, well-planned pruning regimes and allowing sufficient space for growth.
- » Removing weeds, pests and diseased foliage can be sufficient to get acceptable control in gardens and community spaces.
- » Companion planting (growing plants together which benefit and help each other). For example: marigolds can deter aphids, sage is said to repel slugs, and nasturtiums will attract aphids and caterpillars away from cabbages and other vegetables. There are many more plants with similar properties.

## DID YOU KNOW?

Attitudes to pests are important. For home growers a low level of pest or disease damage is usually acceptable and there is therefore no need to use pesticides.

Conwy CBC has stopped using insecticides (pesticides used to control insects) on all of their public open spaces such as parks and recreation areas, and only use herbicides (pesticides used to control plants, commonly known as weed killers) sparingly and where there is no other viable option.



photo credit: Liam Olds

## Ideas for actions – choose one of these or come up with your own and tell us about it

- » Work with local householders to encourage them to reduce or eliminate their use of pesticides that may be harmful to insect pollinators.
- » Work with local householders to encourage them to reduce and eliminate their use of herbicides that kill “weeds” which can rob pollinators of food and homes.
- » Encourage your Community Council or Local Authority to do more for pollinators by reducing or eliminating the use of chemicals harmful to insect pollinators on land that they control.
- » Work with local allotment holders to involve them in creating and managing pollinator habitat on allotments and to reduce pesticide.
- » Raise awareness more generally about the effects of some pesticides on pollinators.



## DID YOU KNOW?

Bees and their produce have been important in Wales from the earliest of times. The Laws of Hywel Dda deal with bees and their habits and produce. In the middle ages, mead was very important. Mead is an alcoholic drink made from honey and according to the Welsh laws, townships were expected to pay part of their taxes to the King in the form of mead. The Welsh words 'mêl' (honey), 'medd' (mead) and 'meddwi' (to get drunk) all share the same root.

The willingness of a patron to share his mead was a measure of his generosity according to the early poets. In the early Welsh poem 'y Gododdin', composed in the 6th century, the warriors of the Welsh-speaking kingdoms of the "Old North" (northern England/southern Scotland today) lost to the Anglo-Saxon invaders at the great battle of Catraeth (generally assumed to be Catterick) due to the overconsumption of mead. Many houses and farms in Wales include the element 'gwenyn' (bee).

## THEME 4 – FUN – INVOLVING ALL THE COMMUNITY

### WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?

Places that are good for pollinators are good for people too! Bees, butterflies and wildflowers are, after all, synonymous with beautiful summer days. Engaging as many people as possible, and in particular younger people, will help them learn to love nature and could instil in them a desire to find out more and to protect their environment for future generations.

Involving as many other people in your **Bee Friendly Wales** project is probably the single best thing you can do. Bringing more people on board can help ensure that your project reflects local needs, has local support, helps provide new ideas and different perspectives and can in turn help identify new partners to work with.

And...most importantly...  
it's FUN!

## **Ideas for actions – choose one of these or come up with your own and tell us about it**

- » Work with at least one local school, nursery, youth group or other local community group to have an annual ‘pollinator day’ where children can dress up in fancy dress, learn about pollinators, do a range of craft activities and maybe even come up with a bee-rap?
- » Organise or attend at least one event per year to promote action to help pollinators (this could be a stall at the local fair or school fete, an evening film showing or public talk or maybe even something like a special local honey tasting event for staff at your business for example):
- » Take part in Wales Nature Week<sup>17</sup> to highlight the work you are doing to help pollinators.
- » Take part in National Moth Night<sup>18</sup> – the annual celebration of moth recording throughout Britain and Ireland by enthusiasts aimed at raising awareness of moths among the general public.
- » Take part in the Big Butterfly Count<sup>19</sup> – a nationwide survey aimed at helping us assess the health of our environment. It was launched in 2010 and has rapidly become the world’s biggest survey of butterflies. Over 100,000 people took part in 2018, undertaking 97,133 counts.
- » Give awards for the best pollinator garden in any local “In Bloom” competitions, and/or hold a competition for the best pollinator-friendly workplace/business or school garden.
- » Work with other groups in your community on pollinator projects.
- » Encourage gardeners, children and schools to go on a hunt for one of the common solitary bee species, and to submit any records – see the boxes below for suggestions.
- » Tell the local press and others, perhaps through social media, what you are doing, and why.

<sup>17</sup> <https://www.biodiversitywales.org.uk/Wales-Nature-Week>

<sup>18</sup> <http://mothnight.info/home>

<sup>19</sup> <https://www.bigbutterflycount.org/>

- » Learn from others. Invite or visit another **Bee Friendly** group to share what you are doing. Attend events run by conservation organisations such as Buglife<sup>20</sup> and Bumblebee Conservation<sup>21</sup>.
- » Produce publicity about what you are doing for your customers, clients or partners.
- » Become a **Bee Friendly** Champion – inspire other organisations or communities to sign up to the Bee Friendly Scheme.



[www.bwars.com/content/colletes-hederae-mapping-project](http://www.bwars.com/content/colletes-hederae-mapping-project)



[www.bwars.com/content/anthidium-manicatum-wool-carder-bee-survey](http://www.bwars.com/content/anthidium-manicatum-wool-carder-bee-survey)

## HUNTING FOR SOLITARY BEES

In summer, hunt for the **Wool Carder Bee**. Great fun to watch as it patrols territories around flowers and chases other insects, very easy to find as it always visits the garden flower called Lamb's Ear. This bee species is under-recorded in Wales, so schools who submit records are also contributing to science.

In autumn, hunt for the **Ivy Mining bee**. Very easy to identify as it only visits flowering ivy, at a time when other solitary bees are not around. Very interesting because it is slowly colonising Wales via the Severn Valley so its progress across Wales can be monitored by looking at the online distribution map on the BWARS site. Again, this contributes to our scientific knowledge of the bee.

<sup>20</sup> <https://www.buglife.org.uk/>

<sup>21</sup> <https://www.bumblebeeconservation.org/>

“TEACHING A CHILD NOT TO  
STEP ON A CATERPILLAR IS AS  
VALUABLE TO THE CHILD AS IT IS  
TO THE CATERPILLAR.” Bradley Millar



# APPLICATIONS AND RENEWALS

## Making a successful application:

Seek advice and support by making contact with your local Bee Friendly Champion (contact list available in the Bee Friendly tab on Wales Biodiversity web site<sup>22</sup>).

To become a **Bee Friendly** community or organisation you will need to show how you are committed to taking action or how you have already successfully taken action around the 4 **Bee Friendly** themes.

Please keep a record of all your achievements, activities and media coverage.

## When you're ready and confident the requirements for each theme can be met:

- 1. Download the application form** from the Wales Biodiversity Partnership website.
- 2. Complete the application form** with details around each of the four themes. Completing the form electronically makes processing the application quicker and more efficient.

- 3. Email the completed application form** with any supporting information such as photos and media coverage to [NatureConservation@gov.wales](mailto:NatureConservation@gov.wales)

## If you cannot submit the form electronically, please send it to;

Bee Friendly  
Biodiversity and Nature  
Conservation Branch  
Welsh Government  
Rhodfa Padarn  
Llanbadarn Fawr  
Aberystwyth  
SY23 3UR

## WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

**Bee Friendly** will confirm your application has been received and if necessary, request any additional information needed.

A **Bee Friendly** Champion will assess your application and give you feedback.

If your application is successful – celebrate! A certificate and **Bee Friendly** identity/logo for you to use will be awarded to the group. You will be able to use your **Bee Friendly** identity/logo on all your materials.

<sup>22</sup> <https://www.biodiversitywales.org.uk/Wales-Action-Plan-for-Pollinators>



If your application is unsuccessful, use the suggestions in the feedback to develop activity and resubmit the application when you feel the necessary progress is made.

## MAINTAINING BEE FRIENDLY STATUS

All **Bee Friendly** schemes must maintain status by submitting a renewal application one year after status is achieved.

Make sure progress around the goals is recorded and keep details of any events you do, your progress locally, photos, media coverage and any other information you feel is relevant.

On your renewal application, one of our **Bee Friendly** Champions will work with you to provide advice.

## RESOURCES AND SUPPORT

For general enquiries about **Bee Friendly**, applications and renewals please contact: natureconservation@wales.gsi.gov.uk

**Bee Friendly  
Biodiversity and Nature  
Conservation Branch  
Welsh Government  
Rhodfa Padarn  
Llanbadarn Fawr  
Aberystwyth  
SY23 3UR**

Resources for **Bee Friendly**, and the latest **Bee Friendly** news and information

[www.biodiversitywales.org.uk/  
Wales-Action-Plan-for-Pollinators](http://www.biodiversitywales.org.uk/Wales-Action-Plan-for-Pollinators)

## RESOURCES TO HELP YOU

### GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT POLLINATORS

- » Bumblebee Conservation Trust  
<http://bumblebeeconservation.org/>
- » [www.bumblebeeconservation.org/bees-needs/information-sheets/](http://www.bumblebeeconservation.org/bees-needs/information-sheets/)

- » Friends of the Earth – Bee Cause  
<https://friendsoftheearth.uk/bees>
- » Bee Friendly Monmouthshire  
<http://beefriendlymonmouthshire.org/>
- » Bees for development  
[www.beesfordevelopment.org/](http://www.beesfordevelopment.org/)

## GARDENING FOR POLLINATORS

- » Plants for pollinators list & Wildlife gardening pack  
[www.biodiversitywales.org.uk/Wales-Action-Plan-for-Pollinators](http://www.biodiversitywales.org.uk/Wales-Action-Plan-for-Pollinators)
- » Royal Horticultural Society – Perfect for Pollinators  
[www.rhs.org.uk/science/conservation-biodiversity/wildlife/encourage-wildlife-to-your-garden/plants-for-pollinators](http://www.rhs.org.uk/science/conservation-biodiversity/wildlife/encourage-wildlife-to-your-garden/plants-for-pollinators)
- » Buglife  
[www.buglife.org.uk/activities-for-you/wildlife-gardening](http://www.buglife.org.uk/activities-for-you/wildlife-gardening)
- » Bumblebee Conservation Trust- Gardening for Bumblebees  
[www.bumblebeeconservation.org/gardeningadvice/](http://www.bumblebeeconservation.org/gardeningadvice/)

- » Wildlife Trusts – Wildlife Gardening  
[www.wildlifetrusts.org/gardening](http://www.wildlifetrusts.org/gardening)
- » Wildlife Gardening Forum  
[www.wlgf.org/](http://www.wlgf.org/)
- » Royal Horticultural Society Grey to Green scheme  
[www.rhs.org.uk/science/gardening-in-a-changing-world/greening-grey-britain](http://www.rhs.org.uk/science/gardening-in-a-changing-world/greening-grey-britain)
- » RSPB's Make a home for wildlife in your garden:  
[ww2.rspb.org.uk/makeahomeforwildlife/givenatureahomeinyourgarden/](http://ww2.rspb.org.uk/makeahomeforwildlife/givenatureahomeinyourgarden/)
- » Butterfly Conservation's gardening advice:  
<https://butterfly-conservation.org/how-you-can-help/get-involved/gardening>
- » Plantlife's gardening advice  
[www.plantlife.org.uk/wildflower\\_garden](http://www.plantlife.org.uk/wildflower_garden)

## BEEKEEPING

- » Welsh Beekeepers Association  
[www.wbka.com/](http://www.wbka.com/)
- » National Bee Unit (Beebase)  
[www.nationalbeeunit.com/](http://www.nationalbeeunit.com/)

## COUNTING POLLINATORS

- » National Moth Night  
[www.mothnight.info](http://www.mothnight.info)
- » Big Butterfly Count  
[www.bigbutterflycount.org/](http://www.bigbutterflycount.org/)
- » Pollinator Monitoring Scheme (PoMS)  
[www.ceh.ac.uk/our-science/projects/pollinator-monitoring](http://www.ceh.ac.uk/our-science/projects/pollinator-monitoring)
- » Blooms for Bees  
[www.bloomsforbees.co.uk/](http://www.bloomsforbees.co.uk/)
- » Polli:Nation Survey  
[www.polli-nation.co.uk/](http://www.polli-nation.co.uk/)

## OTHER INITIATIVES

- » Grow Wild  
[www.growwilduk.com/content/about-grow-wild](http://www.growwilduk.com/content/about-grow-wild)
- » National Botanic Garden for Wales  
<https://botanicgarden.wales/science/saving-pollinators/>

## CASE STUDIES

- » Case Studies – on WBP website  
[www.biodiversitywales.org.uk/Wales-Action-Plan-for-Pollinators](http://www.biodiversitywales.org.uk/Wales-Action-Plan-for-Pollinators)