

Buzzword



Members' newsletter
March 2019 - Issue 39

Saving the sound of summer



Saving the sound of summer

bumblebeeconservation.org

We're on a mission . . with a vision

This may sound grandiose but here at the Trust we are about to mark a particular moment in the Trust's evolution; we are launching our strategy for the next five years. We will be building on past successes, making changes and creating new opportunities to ensure our bumblebees flourish.

Our plans are the end product of a very considered process that ultimately involved members, staff and trustees. It also involved a considerable amount of research into the growing body of evidence that indicates how the environmental landscape is shifting for charities that work in it, and for those that own and work the land. That is all I'm going to say about Brexit.

It is really important that any organisation periodically revisits its fundamental purposes, in order to refresh and reaffirm

their validity, and the Trust has spent 18 months ensuring that our next five years will produce the impact we all want.

Thanks to you, staff, and trustees for all your support and investment in shaping this plan. A little part of me can't help thinking – it's so good to be here.

Today marks a milestone in a long but very rewarding process. Here's to a healthy, impactful and relevant Trust, now and for the sake of a future for bumblebees.

You can read more on pages 8 and 9 with a summary document available online by May.



Gill Perkins, CEO

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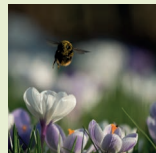
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Cover picture

Early bumblebee (*Bombus pratorum*) by Kate Jaconello



The bumble blog

Full team meeting in Birmingham

36 out of a possible 41 members of staff met in Birmingham in mid-March for the Trust's full team meeting. Most of the Trust's staff work from home or in small teams and the full team meeting is, therefore, the only time each year to bring staff together. Over a three day period, staff undertook a variety of training sessions, including finance and communications, with some fantastic podcasts being produced, received an overview of the project work taking place across the country, watched updates on future plans, and discussed how to implement our new five year strategy. Emma Landsell, our new Making a Buzz for the Coast



Project Manager said, "I enjoyed meeting so many great people and hearing all the amazing things going on across the country. I've come away exhausted but energised!"

Bigger and better!

Some of you will have noticed a small but significant change to this month's Buzzword. We have increased the length from 20 to 24 pages to give you more information on the work the Trust carries out. We enjoy putting the magazine together and hope you enjoy reading the content!

Photo (above): *Bex Cartwright, Conservation Officer presenting to staff*



Male White-tailed bumblebee (*Bombus lucorum* agg.) on Field Scabious by Julie Richards



Sun-bleached male Common carder bee (*Bombus pascuorum*) by Nick Wood



Buff-tailed queen bumblebee (*Bombus terrestris*) on crocus by Les Moore

Your photo gallery

If you would like to see your photo featured in Buzzword, please email: media@bumblebeeconservation.org



Male Buff-tailed bumblebee (*Bombus terrestris*) on Hollyhock by Margaret Jones



Nest searching queen Buff-tailed Bumblebee (*Bombus terrestris*) by Lenka Sukenikova

Saving the sound of summer!



Springtime is upon us at long last and it is exciting to see the first flowers popping up and hear the first bumblebee queens as they forage and fumble through the foliage. With the final frosts of the year behind us, we can start to turn our attention to nurturing a space for bumblebees. With this in mind, we are providing a step by step guide to planning a new bee-friendly garden in 2019, featuring an in depth look at how signing up to our Bee kind tool can help you make the right choices in your garden.

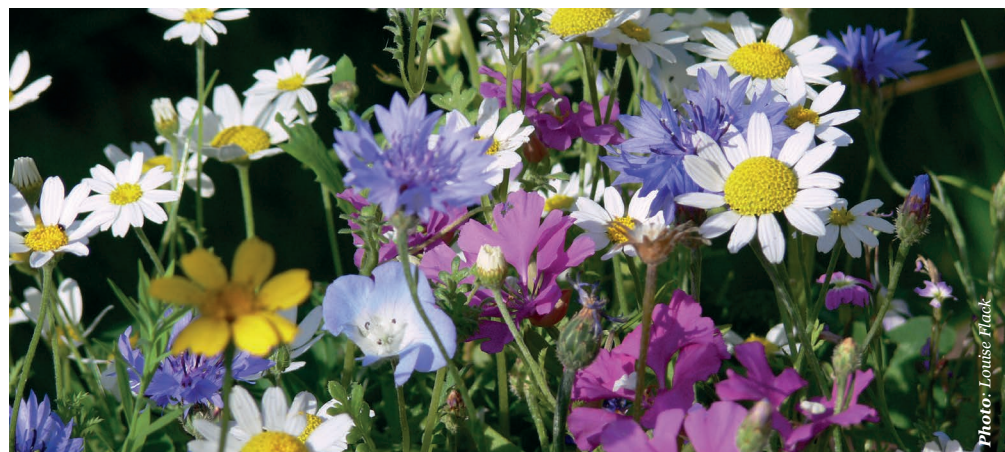


Photo: Louise Flack

How to plan a new bee-friendly garden (or improve an existing one)



Step 1. Choose your plot

Decide where your bee-friendly garden is going to be. Find a plot that works for you – whether that is a corner, a border, a window box or an acre, the basic requirements are a patch of bare earth or a container filled with soil that you will have time to tend to. Draw a scale picture of your plot and note down the area you have to play with.

Photo: Andrew Rowley



Step 2. Choosing what to grow with Bee kind

Knowing which bee-friendly plants will work best in your garden is probably the toughest part of planning a bee-friendly garden and one of the reasons we have worked hard to update our free online Bee kind gardening tool. For this step you will need to go online to www.beekind.bumblebeeconservation.org (if you're not online, ask a friend or relative who is happy to help you).

- Click on **'get started'** to begin using the flower finder. Here you can search for and input any bee-friendly flowers you already have in your garden.
- Once you've completed this, or if you don't yet have any bee-friendly flowers, you can click on **'get my score'**. This section tells you how good your current garden is for bumblebees and provides your top ten suggested plants.
- The next step is to sign up by clicking on **'improve my score'**. Once signed up, head to the **'your plant recommendations'** sections. First, you will want to add in as much info as you can in the **'about your garden'** section. The more information you can enter at this stage, such as soil type, moisture and garden aspect – the more successful you are likely to be. You can further personalise your recommendations in the **'your plant preferences'** section if for example, you have a particular colour scheme you want to create or you would prefer to only plant native shrubs.
- Ideally, you will want a succession of flowers from March to October. We suggest using the **'month of flowering'** filter under **'your plant preferences'** to narrow your suggestions down to a single month. Browse your recommendations for March and add one flower to your wish list by tapping on the little heart icon. Change the selected month from March to April, choose another flower and repeat until you get to October. This should give you a total of eight plants to start your bumblebee oasis. Your selections will be saved in your wish list which can be accessed at the top of the screen.



Photo: Rebecca Millar



Step 3. Source your plants or seeds

Divide your plot area by eight to work out how much room you have for each plant and the quantities you will need - remember that some plants need more room than others. Seeds and plants can be bought online, from your local garden centre or nursery, acquired from friends or plant swap events. Buying organic, plant swapping or growing from seed is usually the safest way to know your plants haven't been treated with pesticides and fungicides.



Step 4. Create a planting schedule

Work out roughly when you will need to sow or plant out your bee-friendly flowers and make a schedule. Note if any after care, such as winter pruning or dead-heading of flowers, needs to be done and plan this in too. If you are planning to scatter seed to create a mini-meadow using annuals like poppies and cornflower, try sowing every two weeks to prolong the flowering period.



Step 5. Prepare your plot

Photo: Rosie Earwaker

Ensure your plot is relatively weed free and evenly raked, ready for planting. If your chosen plants require rich compost then you will want to dig this in. Most native wildflowers prefer poor soil, so there is no need to enrich the soil if you are opting for a mini meadow.



Step 6. Get planting!

Photo: Sue Appleton

Now it's time to put your plan into action, follow your planting schedule and keep your new garden watered and tended accordingly. Don't forget to revisit Bee kind and add your wish list flowers to your garden to find out your updated score.



Step 7. Enjoy the buzz!

Now the hard work is done, you can relax and enjoy watching all of your bumblebee visitors over the course of the year. Share your photos with us and the world using social media, use the hashtag #BeeKind and encourage your friends to join in the bee-friendly gardening revolution.

Photo: Linda Blake



Flower focus: Cardoon



If you are looking for an attractive addition to your borders or a tall centre piece for a planted area then you might consider planting Cardoon, also known as Globe Artichoke. This plant originates from the Mediterranean and prefers well-drained soil in full sun, it also needs shelter and a bit of room to spread. The silvery green foliage provides a nice backdrop for the early part of summer before the giant thistle-like flower heads bloom from June through to September. They form majestic purple landing pads which will literally be buzzing with bees until they set seed. The flower-heads can be left on their stalks to provide an attractive winter garden backdrop.



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The next five years and beyond . . .



Photo: Peiter Haringsma,
Buff-tailed bumblebee
(*Bombus terrestris*)

The future, as someone once told me, “ain’t what it used to be”

We can all be sure that the future will be different, in so many unimaginable ways. We know we are entering a new age of conservation. There is a new language, reflective of an emerging new era breaking through: natural capital, landscape scale conservation, habitat connectivity, reconnecting with nature, sustainability. With this in mind staff within the Trust have taken a long hard look at the way we operate and what we need to do to be successful. We have developed a new plan for the next five years which learns from the past and embraces new developments, but crucially keeps our most important, priority in sight - a vision of creating a world where bumblebees are thriving and valued.

The Bumblebee Conservation Trust is now in its 14th year of operation. From day one, we have retained the same passion. Our mission is still the same. We continue to work hard to increase the

number and distribution of bumblebees. We greatly value the immense contribution our members make to our innovative work, and are proud to have your support.

Our new strategic plan, details of which are given throughout this edition of Buzzword, outlines a vision that we wish to fulfil to the best of our ability making sure that staff, our members, indeed all of our communities and our many supporters receive what they need to ensure bumblebees flourish.

Most people say generating ideas isn't the problem - it is making them happen that's really hard. In developing our

Aims

1. Enhance the understanding of bumblebee ecology and conservation.
2. Increase the quality and quantity of bumblebee habitat.
3. Inspire and enable a diverse range of people to take action for bumblebees.
4. Be an effective and sustainable organisation.

new plan, our staff and trustees, have diligently gone back to basics over the last 18 months. Now we will put our ideas to the test. The Trust's direction has been set and we have developed a comprehensive action plan to accomplish our goals, and manage our finances in a sustainable way.

The Bumblebee Conservation Trust is made up of many ordinary people doing extraordinary things, including paid staff, trustees, as well as members and volunteers. **Ordinary people doing extraordinary things.** I wish to thank all of you who have helped us over the past 14 years, and we hope you will continue your support as we dive headlong into the future.

Albert Camus, the French philosopher, said, *“In the depth of winter, I finally learned that there was in me an invincible summer.”*

There is an invincible summer in all of us in the Trust, staff, trustees, members, volunteers – a determination to ensure our wonderful strapline ‘saving the sound of summer’ has more relevance than

ever. We know we have the momentum and energy to fulfil our plans but we need you to support our ambitions.

Our new ‘vision’ and ‘mission’ are below, both of which I am sure you share.

Gill Perkins, CEO



Photo: Peiter Haringsma, Devil's-bit scabious (*Succisa pratensis*)

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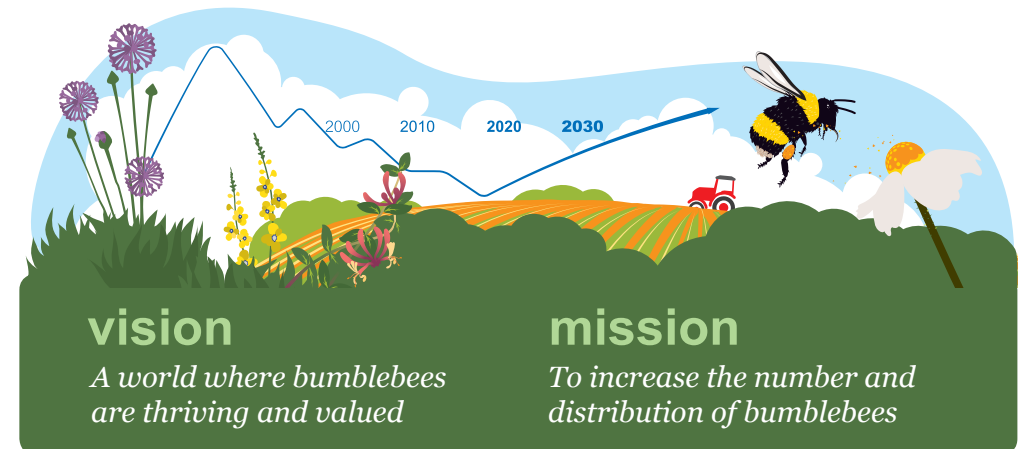
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vision

A world where bumblebees are thriving and valued

mission

To increase the number and distribution of bumblebees



Claire Wallis, PhD postgraduate researcher, addresses a very important question: are road verges good or bad for bumblebees? Supervised by Dr Lynn Dicks, at the University of East Anglia, in collaboration with the Bumblebee Conservation Trust and Highways England.

At first glance, this seems a fairly straight forward question. However, many different factors make answering it quite challenging.

Road verges have masses of potential for bumblebees. Urbanisation means the road network is expanding, so the area of land occupied by roadside verges is increasing. Road verges can provide undisturbed soil for nesting, floral resources, and can also improve the connectivity of the landscape. In fact, road verges could be a much needed refuge for bumblebees, especially in areas that are predominately agricultural.

However, bumblebees could experience negative effects from nesting or feeding

so close to road traffic. Road dust may mask with, or interfere with, floral cues like scent and ultra-violet patterns. Noise and vibration from passing traffic could disturb nesting bumblebees. Also, bumblebees trying to cross roads may be hit by oncoming traffic. A study in Sweden found different species of bees and wasps on opposite sides of a busy road, suggesting the road was a barrier to movement.

One pollutant from vehicles, nitrogen, is known to negatively impact bumblebees through its impact on flowering plants. There is twice as much nitrogen in soils close to roads than areas 500 metres or more away from roads. Excess

nitrogen leads to the displacement of less-competitive wildflowers which are favoured by bumblebees, in favour of a few highly competitive plant species. A number of metals have been detected in roadside verges which originate from vehicles, including aluminium, copper, nickel and zinc. Research suggests bees change their foraging behaviour when exposed to some metals, and this could have subsequent negative impacts on colony success. In a study on metal contamination and foraging behaviour, bumblebees spent 75% less time foraging on nickel contaminated flowers compared to uncontaminated flowers.

So, when planting road verges out with bee-friendly seed mixes, are we inadvertently exposing bumblebees to a variety of adverse impacts associated with traffic? And how do these impacts balance against the benefits of extra foraging and nesting habitat?

Over the next three years, I will conduct field and lab based studies to answer some major questions concerning



road verges and their impact - positive or negative - on bumblebees. I am particularly interested in how metal pollution, noise and vibration affects bumblebees at individual and colony level. Also, if different road speeds and traffic volumes influence foraging and nesting behaviour. By working with Highways England, I have a unique opportunity to survey large trunk roads that would otherwise be inaccessible. My results will not only fill a gap in scientific knowledge, but also help to inform both large companies, like Highways England, and local councils on how best to manage their road verges for bumblebees.



The Big 7 poster

Common UK bumblebee species




As temperatures start to warm up, you should start to see some newly emerged bumblebee queens on the wing looking for food and nesting sites. We call the species that emerge first our early emergers, and they tend to be our most common bumblebee species.



Social bumblebee



Bumblebees listed by colour pattern

-  White-tailed bumblebee
-  Ginger-tailed bumblebee
-  Red-tailed bumblebee

Tree bumblebee (*Bombus hypnorum*)

Queen/Worker/Male



Recent immigrant from France. Unique brown, black and white colour pattern. This bumblebee has spread rapidly and is now widespread in England, Wales and Scotland.

Photo: Bumblebee worker



Buff-tailed bumblebee (*Bombus terrestris*)

Queen Worker



Queens and males usually have buff tails but workers' tails are largely white, usually with a hint of buff at the front margin. Yellow bands slightly darker/dirtier than in the White-tailed.

Photo: Queen bumblebee by Andrea Finch



Common carder bee (*Bombus pascuorum*)

Queen/Worker/Male



The only common brown bumblebee. Some forms have a very dark abdomen, but others are very light and similar to rarer carder bees.

Photo: Bumblebee worker



White-tailed bumblebee (*Bombus lucorum*)

Queen Male



Similar to Buff-tailed bumblebee but tail always pure white and bands brighter yellow. Males have yellow faces and often extra yellow bands.

Photo: Queen bumblebee by Andrea Finch



Early bumblebee (*Bombus pratorum*)

Queen Male



A common small bee with an orangey-red tail. Has one or two yellow bands and males have a yellow face. Rarely seen after July.

Photo: Male bumblebee by Gordon Mackie



Garden bumblebee (*Bombus hortorum*)

Queen/Worker/Male



A very long-tongued species with a white tail and yellow bands, including one at the rear of the thorax. Has a longer 'horse-like' face.

Photo: Male bumblebee by Andrea Finch



Red-tailed bumblebee (*Bombus lapidarius*)

Queen Male



Females are all black, with a red tail. Males have yellow hair on the face and a yellow band at the front of the thorax.

Photo: Queen bumblebee by Jack Reid



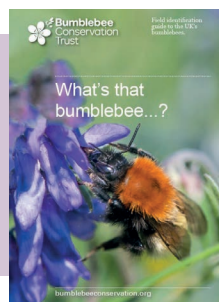


With bumblebee season finally here, the Trust has an excellent selection of bumblebee ID guides to help you identify bumblebees in paper format or digital. All the items listed, can be purchased via our merchandise page at:

www.bumblebeeconservation.org/product-category/merchandise/



Purchase our mobile app. Search 'BEE ID' on the App Store. *Not currently available for android.*



What's that bumblebee . . ? ID guide

£2.50

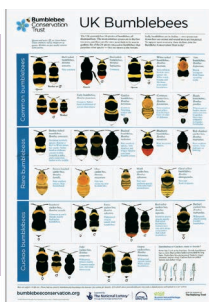
An updated version of our bumblebee field ID guide, now with photos of each species, colour coding and tips to help with identification in the field.



Bumblebees - an introduction book

£10.00

Perfect for beginners wanting to know more about the UK's bumblebees, their ecology and how to identify them.



UK bumblebee poster

£2.00

Our ID poster showing all 24 UK bumblebee species. A2 sized, it's perfect for your classroom, study or children's bedroom wall!



Pocket-sized ID guide 3-pack

£5.00

Get our three handy pocket-sized identification guides to the UK's 8 common bumblebees, 8 scarce bumblebees and 6 cuckoo bumblebees. **Also sold separately.**

The Hairy-footed flower bee

Photo: female (Anthophora plumipes) on Lungwort by Ian Gregory



by Dr Nikki Gammans, Short-haired bumblebee reintroduction Project Manager

Have you spotted little furry black bees that look like bumblebees in your garden or nesting in your brick walls during February to June? Perhaps they are visiting your lungwort and primroses?

These bees are in fact the Hairy-footed flower bee (*Anthophora plumipes*). One of the first solitary bees of the year to emerge in spring and people often confuse them for small bumblebees, although their quick darting flight motion is a good way to tell them apart.

The males and females look very different from each other. The males are pale gingery brown in colour with distinctive cream coloured hair on their faces. They also have distinctive feathery hairs on their legs/feet, which is where this species gets its name from. These bees can often be seen patrolling areas of flowers in the hopes of finding a mate and chasing other insects off their territory. The females are very different to males, they are black all over, except for orange/red hairs on their hind legs. They lay their eggs in shallow hollows in soft mortar, cob walls, cliff faces and exposed soil banks, and will be on the wing for about 6-8 weeks.

Once an egg is laid, the female provides it with nectar and pollen and it will emerge as an adult next year.

The Hairy-footed flower bee is frequently found in urban greenspaces, parks and gardens from February to June. They are most common in the south and south east, although they are found throughout England and Wales, with records from Scotland in recent years.

These harmless little bees are fascinating to watch, with their 'darting' motion, and you can encourage them into your garden by planting lungwort, comfrey, flowering currant and primroses.



Photos: (left) Male Hairy-footed flower bee by Dave Sawyer; (right) Female Hairy-footed flower bee by Ken East



Calling on microbial allies to protect bee health

By Dr Peter Graystock, Imperial College London

You may have heard about the 'good bacteria' that live within our gut. Perhaps you have also seen (or purchased) lots of foods with added probiotics which claim to increase your good bacteria and keep you healthy? Well, did you know that bees also have good bacteria living in their tiny guts? Over 1 billion bacterial cells per bee gut in fact!

But these aren't just any old bacteria, the bacterial we find in the guts of bumblebees are a community, usually dominated by the same 5-8 core bacterial species. These bacterial communities of the gut, which we call a microbiome, are largely consistent within bumblebee species. If for example, we compare microbiomes of *Bombus terrestris* in Scotland with those of *Bombus terrestris* in Southern England, we find them to be alike. And whilst the microbiomes of different bumblebee species differ a little, they remain generally similar.

Social bees acquire these microbiomes from contact with their nestmates inside the colony – a little like catching a cold, except they are catching beneficial bacteria. Solitary wild bees, do not have much (if any) contact with their brothers and sisters when they emerge (eclose) so there's no one there to give them a microbiome. Its unsurprising then

Bombus impatiens in microbe-free 'cocoon' after being removed from their nest cocoons. They are in these until they become mobile, at which point they are placed in larger enclosures with other, microbe-free nestmates.



The view from inside a *Bombus impatiens* colony showing the queen (inset), wax pots of eggs and larvae (1), cocoons of pupae (2), workers (3) and full nectar pots (4).



that solitary bees do not have stable microbiomes like we find in social bees. In fact, solitary bee microbiomes tend to be restricted to the kinds of microbes that we also find on the surfaces of the flowers they forage upon.

What's so good about the microbiomes of social bees?

The core microbes that dominate the guts of social bees act like an intermediate matrix that ingested food/chemicals must pass through before reaching the gut wall. If parasites are ingested, the microbiome can reduce their harm, and help maintain bee health. When food passes through the microbiome, bacteria can aid its digestion, enabling bees to get more nutrition from their diet. Some of the core bacteria can even digest otherwise toxic nectar before the bees can be harmed. Some toxins however (natural and man-made) can disturb the harmony of the microbiome, reducing the core bacteria and their positive influence.

The bumblebees microbiome is therefore very important for their health, but there's still much we do not understand. After spending four years in America, I have now brought my research to Imperial College London, where I'm looking to further reveal the function and importance of bee microbiomes. One of the ways we can do this is by taking advantage of the bumblebee lifecycle. When bees first eclose from their cocoons they have a new gut, free from microbes. By dissecting pre-emergent bees from their cocoons and into warm, microbe-free incubators (similar to human neonatal units), we can control and understand the role of microbiomes on bee health. My research will

provide new insights into the bee microbiome, allowing us to better understand how they contribute to overall bee health and how we might utilise microbes to help protect bees from harmful toxins and parasites.



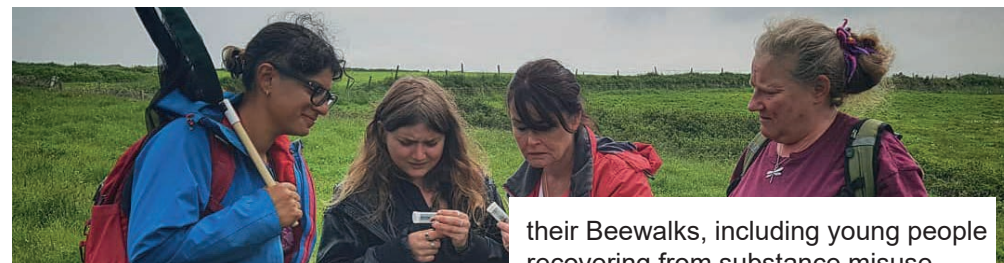
Bombus impatiens foraging - this Common eastern bumblebee, is the most commonly encountered bumblebee across much of eastern North America.

When the Trust met the People's Orchard Project

By Clare Flynn,
Outreach Officer, Wales

Deep in the heart of West Wales, around the beautiful village of St Dogmaels, fruit trees have been appearing. Funded by The Big Lottery 'People and Places', the 'People's Orchard' is an environmental project run by the community charity Hanes Llandocho, with the aim of improving habitat for pollinating insects. Historically, St Dogmaels was known for its plentiful orchards, planted by medieval monks in the twelfth century. The loss of these orchards and the habitats they supported, have contributed to the loss of biodiversity documented over the last century and the vision for the project grew out of this unique local history.

In order to create corridors for insects, the 'Beelines' devised by Buglife were used as the basis for extensive fruit tree planting, alongside other habitat improvement activities. Nia Siggins and Sophie Jenkins (The Orchard Project team), along with a band of committed volunteers attended the Trust's bee identification sessions and a BeeWalk information session, at the start of 2018. We were delighted to hear that following this, they had planned four BeeWalks as part of the 'People's Orchard', taking in a variety of habitats and locations within the project area. A calendar was drawn up, which encompassed a different walk on the same day every week, thereby each route was covered once a month as specified in the BeeWalk guidelines. Each week brought a keen band of volunteer helpers though Nia and Sophie were rigorous in implementing the specific methodology of Beewalk, keen to ensure that these walks, whilst engaging and informing local people, were primarily about accurate recording and capturing of data. By the



end of October 2018, 30 Beewalks were undertaken, attended by approximately 250 volunteers. The team are currently busy inputting their data into the Beewalk website and we estimate it will be many hundreds of new bumblebee records!

The Orchard project, with support from the Trust, has combined far reaching and effective public engagement with targeted and carefully managed biological recording. They have reached people from a variety of backgrounds, sometimes inviting specific groups on

their Beewalks, including young people recovering from substance misuse and adults coping with mental health difficulties. Their feedback has been overwhelmingly positive and some of their regular volunteers have now increased in confidence and enthusiasm so much that they are planning their own Beewalks for 2019. The data they have collected will provide much needed information on the bumblebee species present in the area with the potential to assess the changes that may occur over time and in response to their inspiring and rather fruity habitat creation activities.

'Humble' 

Children's, adults & unisex clothing XS to XXL

Eco friendly T-shirts, free seeds for bees, 2% of profits to the Bumblebee Conservation Trust, HumbleB is a streetwear clothing brand from Portsmouth doing our utmost to save our black and yellow furry friends, to keep the bees and the flowers blossoming all year round.

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*Photos: People's Orchard volunteers
by Sophie Jenkins*

Our 12th AGM and Members' Day, held on 20 October 2018, in Cardiff's beautiful City Hall, was our biggest event to date, with over 145 members and guests in attendance!

The Trust's Chairman, Professor Pete Hollingsworth, gave an opening address and highlighted the Trust's achievements in 2018. Pete spoke about the growth of BeeWalk, the fundamental importance of collaboration, and how the Trust is a founder member of Rethink Nature, a group of leading species conservation organisations combining extensive knowledge to communicate conservation messages. Pete gave a special mention to our retiring trustee, Nigel Ajax-Lewis, who has provided invaluable wisdom, insight and knowledge over the years. He acknowledged the commitment of Trust staff, and of course he gave a heartfelt thanks to you, our members, as our work is only possible with your support.

After the official AGM business was concluded, there were a series of talks from project staff, followed by a presentation by two students from Atlantic Independent College, who are committed to raising awareness of bumblebee conservation.

Our special guest speakers were Liam Olds of Colliery Spoils and Andrew Salisbury of the Royal Horticultural Society.

Volunteer Awards were presented to recognize the wonderful work of John Catton, John Taylor, Margaret and Lily Alston, and Morgan Greenhalf.

The day concluded with a raffle with prizes kindly donated, and a Question Time panel session with speakers and Trust staff.



Photos: (above) members' and guests; (right) donated raffle prizes



Our next AGM and Members' Day will be in Manchester on Saturday 19 October 2019. Please check out our website for more details: www.bumblebeeconservation.org/agm



Oxford Real Farming Conference

By Bex Cartwright, Conservation Officer for Making a Buzz for the Coast

It's important Trust staff stay abreast of the latest research and issues affecting modern farming. In January 2019, myself and three colleagues attended the Oxford Real Farming Conference (ORFC). It was my first time attending the conference, and even before the day of the event arrived, I was impressed with the breadth and diversity of topics and issues covered.

2019 was the biggest year for ORFC yet, attracting 1,000 delegates and 240 speakers or session leaders. The conference attracts a wide diversity of people with backgrounds in agriculture. With over 100 conference sessions to choose from over two days, we were spoilt for choice. As well as practical sessions covering soil health, drought resilience and biological pest control, you could choose from sessions as varied as 'Farming, food and feminism' or 'Farming, wildlife and the importance of spirituality'.

The sessions of greatest interest, were those in which farmers shared

their experiences of farming with sustainability and biodiversity in mind. In the 'Farming Green can put you in the Black' (hosted by the Nature Friendly Farming Network) and 'How do we best support farming that protects and restores nature' sessions, we heard from a diverse range of farmers, that through altering farming practices or diversifying their business were delivering environmental benefits, good quality products as well as turning a profit.

For example, Dingley Dell Pork based in Suffolk, produce high quality pigs on a rotational system, whereby rested areas are sown with a nectar and pollen-rich seed mix to benefit pollinators. In 2018, over 30 hectares of these seed mixes were sown around the farm!

An address from the current Secretary of State for environment, food and rural affairs, the Rt. Hon Michael Gove MP, reiterated the 'public money for public goods' mantra and spoke about the benefits that would go to those who replenished natural capital and engaged in environmentally sustainable practises.

For more details visit: orfc.org.uk/

Photo: Martin Lines, Nature Friendly Farming Network





The Trust would like to extend a warm welcome to the following staff who have recently joined us:

Rebecca Levey joins as Conservation Trainee with the Making a Buzz for the Coast project, focusing on practical conservation and key habitat sites.

Patricia Dove joins as Outreach Trainee for the Making a Buzz for the Coast project, supporting the team with public engagement and communication activities. Patricia has previously volunteered for the project.

Izzy Knight joins as Green Lanes for Bumblebees Trainee. She will be trained in bumblebee and wild flower identification, practical habitat management skills, outreach and advising farmers and landowners.

Dr Mia Derhé has joined the Science team as Data Monitoring Officer. Mia will be working on analysis of data from the Science and Conservation teams, starting by looking at population changes in rare bees at Dungeness and linking these to floristic changes and management work to help inform the Trust's practical conservation work.

Recognition and awards

The Trust is now registered with the Fundraising Regulator. You can see their logo on our fundraising promise webpage. In England, Wales and Northern Ireland, it is the Fundraising Regulator who oversees the standard for fundraising and deals with complaints about charity fundraising. More information can be found at www.bumblebeeconservation.org/our-fundraising-promise/

Recently, the Trust achieved the Charity Excellence Framework Quality Mark. This assesses our performance in eight key areas - governance, strategy, people, charitable operations, risk, finance & resources, income generation and communications and provides evidence to funders and other stakeholders of our commitment to excellence.

We are sure you will agree this is an outstanding achievement for the Trust.



New trustee

Dr Natasha de Vere was co-opted to our Board of Trustees in March. Natasha is Head of Science at the National Botanic Garden of Wales and a Senior Lecturer at Aberystwyth University. She has been responsible for the science programme at the Botanic Garden for eleven years.

Natasha is passionate about public engagement with science, especially using art-science projects to engage and develop a wide audience with scientific ideas.

Thank you!

Our membership team would like to thank all our members who recently responded to our 'children's membership' survey with their feedback. We will be relaunching our 'junior membership' in November 2019, with a bigger, brighter and more engaging welcome pack. Watch this space!



Animal Friends #charitygiveaway



In November 2018, we were nominated by customers of Animal Friends Pet Insurance to be in with a chance of winning £100k in the #100kcharitygiveaway. After a month of voting and sharing, the Trust were invited to the 'Big Reveal' on 10 December to announce the winner. Although the Trust didn't win, we were delighted when surprised with a cheque for £25,000! Gill Perkins, CEO said "this is a huge amount of money which will fund our new 'Saving the Great Yellow bumblebee' project, and I am delighted". **Thank you to all our members for helping achieve this.** Our congratulations to Street Vet, who won the vote.



Thank you to everyone who voted for the Trust's application to the Aviva Community Fund. On this occasion we did not receive an award, however, Aviva have kindly donated £500 towards our BeeWalk project.

Business support revamp

In February 2019, the Trust undertook some changes to the way we work with businesses. We no longer use the word 'Corporate' as 'Business' better reflects the audience we work with, mostly small to medium

sized businesses. Our business membership now has two categories; BusinessPlus and Business. We have updated our website, literature and membership to reflect this important change. A White-tailed pin badge is now attached to the new membership! You can take a look at the Business webpage at www.bumblebeeconservation.org/business-support/

Business membership



Trustee vacancies

The Trust is currently looking for three new trustees to join our Board. We would like to recruit new trustees with Science and Conservation, Fundraising and Communications, and Finance skills.

The closing date for submitting an application is 30 April 2019. Full details of the vacancies are available on our website at www.bumblebeeconservation.org/vacancies/.

Welcome back . . .

Surveys Officer, Helen Dickinson will be returning from maternity leave in April to continue her role supporting BeeWalkers. Stephanie Miles, who has spent the past year as Helen's maternity cover, will remain with the Trust as GIS Officer. We wish them both well in their roles!

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