



# The winning poems!

Making a Buzz for the Coast project is very pleased to announce it has selected not one, but two winners for its 2019 Poetry Competition, which ran between June to September as part of its Buzzing Communities work. Entries were received from a range of Kent residents who beautifully expressed their love for Kent's bumblebees through the verse and poetry they have composed. From a shortlist of nine, the winning poem was selected by Bumblebee Conservation Trust's patron Olly Smith, author, columnist and TV broadcaster, and occasional poetry writer himself. In his words:



*I am delighted to announce that the winner of the poetry competition is Dorothy Jerrome. I love Dorothy's poem for being simple, charming and evocative. The intimate connection between each of us individually and the bees that enrich our world is huge and this poem joins those two succinctly with a gentle yet powerful impression. Congratulations to Dorothy for such a beautifully observed and moving piece of writing.*

*I would like to thank everyone across Kent who submitted their poems. It is fantastic to see that bees are inspiring so many of us to create enriching and keenly felt emotions and I am truly grateful for all the careful consideration put into each and every poem - the standard was exceptionally high and this competition was a thrill to judge.*

*I would additionally like to create a special award for another poet who also stood out in this year's competition. My favourite nature poet is John Clare thanks to his deep affection for and understanding of the natural world. I'd like to endow the John Clare Poetry Prize of £50 as a special award this year to a young poet showing great promise in writing about nature. Congratulations to Ellie Gosling, aged 11 for her delightfully thoughtful and brilliant poem 'Conservation Conversation'.*



Many congratulations to our two winners who will be awarded their prizes at the project's annual volunteers' celebration to be held on 8 December at Macknades in Faversham. Thank you to everyone for submitting poems.

You can read the winning poems overleaf.





By Dorothy Jerrome

In the twinkling of an eye  
She darts from purple lavender to mint,  
High pitched buzz of the shrill carder bee.  
Tawny back, black eyes  
Homing in on sweet treats  
Mist of blue uninterrupted bliss,  
The only other sound  
My indrawn breath.



### Conservation Conversation

A Worker Bee :

During my daily life I find myself,  
Searching for food to grow my health,  
I'm a worker bee, so I pollinate your flowers,  
I sometimes do it through heavy showers,  
Supporting you humans everyday,  
You have tried to stop me on my way,  
Chemicals you've placed on precious crops,  
Can unfortunately make our lives stop,  
As well as this, the land that remains,  
Can restrict our homeland and leave us in pain,  
So please, oh please all I wish,  
Is that your cruelty can finish.

A thoughtless Human:

What does it matter about you bees,  
You're just another creature to me,  
If you die what does that do,  
It can't matter to me or to you.

A Queen Bee:

I'm a Queen bee,  
So I'm rarely seen,  
My colony are in much distress,  
So please just give them all a rest,  
They are innocent and there to help you,  
But I don't think you know how much they do,  
Your flowers wouldn't grow without them,  
All you would see is the last of the stems,  
You ask if they die what does that do,  
Well with no oxygen from flowers you will die too,  
However, with your help we can support you,  
As we hope you'll do for us too.

A Conservationist:

I'm a conservationist and I'm here to support  
you too,  
Because I know we need more of you,  
All the food we need to grow,  
Wouldn't without you, you know,  
There are many rare and endangered bees,  
And the Shrill Carder bee is one of these,  
Their beautiful greyish green fur and hair,  
Gives them a distinctive, fluffy flare,  
As well as this, their black lines are placed,  
Across their stomach and chest space,  
When the Queen comes out of her hibernation,  
They build their homes out of thick vegetation,  
Unfortunately the area they build in has  
reduced,  
Because of the new housing being introduced,  
So we need to protect what we have got,  
Before we go and lose the lot,  
The amount of work they put in,  
Has given them great pride from within,  
Just imagine a world without bees,  
We wouldn't have the lives we've achieved,  
So no matter how big or small,  
They should be loved by one and all.



By Ellie Gosling