Pollinating the Peak is thousands of people learning about our local bumblebees, caring more about them, planting, recording and speaking out for them.

Welcome

Welcome to the first edition of the Pollinating the Peak project e-news.

Pollinating the Peak is an ambitious natural heritage project working with partners throughout the Peak District National Park and Derbyshire, to raise awareness of the links between our countryside, food and bumblebees. We have a busy schedule of community events to engage people of all ages and inspire the next generation of entomologists and citizen scientists. We also run a secondary school programme – the Bumblebee Education Experience (B.E.E.) which has a focus on delivering the curriculum to students aged 11 plus. We help people to care for and look out for bumblebees, by planting pollinator-friendly flowers in their own gardens and carrying out bumblebee surveys.

Our ‘Jewel of the Peak’ is the Bilberry bumblebee (*Bombus monticola*), one of the rarer species of bumblebee found in the Peak District National Park. Through practical conservation, we are improving habitat and monitoring bumblebee populations and helping to secure the future of the Bilberry bumblebee and other local bumblebees.

This quarterly e-news will give you the latest news and developments, including dates for your diary and information on how you can get involved.
Meet the team below from left to right: Andy Benson, Education Officer, Sally Cuckney, Project Manager, Rhodri Green, Community Engagement Officer and Annie Ives, Project Assistant.

Happy New Year!

From our May launch at Eastwood Park, through to our volunteers celebration in December, the Pollinating the Peak staff and volunteers have been very busy with a packed schedule. To date, we have delivered over 70 events and engaged with over 5,000 people through walks, talks and community activities - with help from 21 adults and three youth volunteers.

Buzzing schools

In October 2018, Pollinating the Peak launched the Bumblebee Education Experience (B.E.E.) at The Old Potting Shed, Chatsworth.

B.E.E. is a free, curriculum linked, secondary education package offering a unique opportunity for schools in the Peak District and Derbyshire area, to learn the
importance of bumblebees through this pop-up experience.

Brought to you in two parts, B.E.E. begins with a show telling the story of the bumblebee with large scale props and images. This is followed by classroom based science workshops, during which students have the opportunity to use science equipment to delve deeper into the world of bumblebees.

If you are interested in booking B.E.E. or require some further information, please email education@bumblebeeconservation.org

Pollinating the Peak to the rescue!

Before we had even a chance to meet and thank our volunteers for their contribution in our first year of delivery, we had already started our second year - springing into action with a last-minute plant rescue at Markeaton Park in Derby. The team were called in to save an assortment of bee-friendly plants that would be lost as part of work at the site of the old Markeaton Hall foundations, which are being covered over to protect archaeological remains.

Thanks to Lisa, Darcey and Martin for jumping in to assist, and to the passing families who joined in! We were able to save some seeds and plants, which are now safely tucked up in their (allotment) beds for a long winter’s nap. They will be returned to the park this spring, when we will be planting them in a brand new pollinator patch. We’ll keep you posted how they get on, so watch this space . . .
Thank you to our amazing volunteers

One of the highlights of the year, was our 2018 volunteer celebration event held in December at Cintra’s Tea Rooms in Hathersage. As well as a thank you to our wonderful volunteers for their fantastic contribution, it was also an opportunity to gain feedback and ideas for the project, through ‘dressing’ our winter wish tree with their favourite moments of 2018 using hearts, to their hopes and plans for 2019 attaching stars.

An enjoyable evening was had by all our volunteers and it was great to see some of our young volunteers there too. The Pollinating the Peak team are aiming for Cintra’s Team Rooms to become the Peak District’s first bumblebee-friendly café.

If you are interested in volunteering for the project, or would like to attend the events listed below, please contact rhodri.green@bumblebeeconservation.org or call 07525 115724. Booking is essential.

For further details on these events and future dates, please see our online events calendar.

2019 upcoming events

Volunteers day on Saturday 2 February from 10am - 3pm at Markeaton Park, Derby DE22 3BG

Come and find out how you can help make a difference for bumblebees in Derbyshire and the Peak District as a volunteer with our local project – from simple
surveying and habitat management to helping out with events stalls and family activities, or working behind the scenes – there’s something for everyone.

The day will also include a talk from Bumblebee Conservation Trust volunteer Ron Rock on looking after solitary bees and nesting boxes in your garden. Click here for more information.

**Bilberry Planting Muck-in Day on Sunday 10 March from 10am to 12.30pm at Surprise View, Hathersage S32 1DA**

Come prepared for some habitat conservation! We’ll be mucking in with our friends from the Eastern Moors Partnership to plant a thousand baby bilberry bushes on Hathersage Moor in the Burbage Valley to increase habitat for our scarce and iconic Bilberry bumblebee (*Bombus Monticola*). Meet at Surprise View car park at 10am.

Muck-in Days are an opportunity for everyone to get involved with volunteering. Suitable for all ages and abilities - students, couples, retirees and families - come along and give it a go. Please note there are no toilets onsite. Please ensure you dress appropriately for the weather and wear sturdy closed toe footwear. Parents/guardians remain responsible for children and young people (under 18) at all times.

Pollinating the Peak is supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund and other charitable trusts. Project partners: Chatsworth Estate, Chesterfield Borough Council, Derbyshire County Council, Derbyshire Wildlife Trust, Eastern Moors Partnership, Little Green Space, Ministry of Justice, Moors for the Future Partnership, National Trust, Peak District National Park Authority, Redrow PLC, University of Derby.
You are receiving this newsletter because you have signed up at an event or when becoming a volunteer. We hope you enjoy reading it!

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annie.ives@bumblebeeconservation.org

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