Pollinating the Peak News - Edition 3 - June 2019

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 third edition of the Pollinating the Peak project e-news, where you can find out about the latest news and developments in our exciting and ambitious natural heritage project, including dates for your diary and information on how you can get involved.

RHS Flower Show at Chatsworth

Five days, five talks, five workshops and over two and a half thousand people taking up the...
challenge to ‘Bee kind’ and garden for bumblebees is just scratching the surface of what the RHS Chatsworth Flower Show is about for Pollinating the Peak. 

Our project has close ties to Chatsworth – as well as funding some work through the Devonshire Educational Trust, head staff from Chatsworth sit on our steering group and act as enthusiastic advocates for bumblebee conservation across the estate.

Our part in the RHS Show has grown each year: this year as well as our information stall and seedball-making workshops we were able to showcase our Bee kind tool with a daily demonstration in the main Floral Marquee, finishing the week with an outing of the amazing Bumblebee Education Experience on the show’s main stage.

Thanks to our friends at the Bee Sensory and Behavioural Ecology Lab at Queen Mary University, London we were once again able to display a bumblebee nest which always proves a talking point.

As well as talking bumblebees, raising funds and giving advice, we signed up new volunteers and BeeWalkers, made contacts with local flower nurseries, gardening groups and centres, took bookings for talks and training - and generally spread the love of bumblebees across the site.

The local project staff were supported by CEO Gill Perkins and Science & Policy Officer Darryl Cox (signing books and delivering Bee kind talks respectively) through the week.

Our biggest thanks need to go to the local volunteers who worked so hard before and during the event: Karl, Jacque, Susan, Emily, Hazel, Brian R, Ron, Dave J, Callum, Sarah, June and Dave C – and not forgetting Ewan without whose support we wouldn’t have been able to get bumblebees into people’s hands, and from their hands into their hearts.
We’ll be back next year – will you join us then?

---

**Bumblebee Education Experience**

The Bumblebee Education Experience is coming to the end of its first academic year. It has been an amazing opportunity to engage with 1680 students from all across Derbyshire. It has been a privilege to share our enthusiasm and passion for bumblebees and their conservation with students from a range of schools, including state, independent and special schools.

We are really excited about getting back on the road in September and meeting more students and staff. If you work in a school or know of a school that may be interested in hosting the Bumblebee Education Experience, please get in touch with our education officer at education@bumblebeeconservation.org

---

**Have you seen this bee?**

The Bilberry bumblebee (*Bombus monticola*) is a nationally scarce species found in the moorland and mountainous habitats. Pollinating the Peak project aims to increase knowledge of this beautiful bee in the Peak District and we need your help!

This bee has very bright orange-red colouring which extends almost all the way up the abdomen.
It has two yellow bands on the thorax, although the lower one can sometimes be pale or faded.

If you are lucky enough to see a Bilberry bumblebee in the Peak District, please take a photo or video if possible and email any sightings to rhodri.green@bumblebeeconservation.org

---

**Bee kind**

Have you tried out our new upgraded, interactive ‘Bee kind’ web app yet? You can find out and score how bee-friendly your garden already is, and how to improve it for pollinators, with advice based on conditions in your own patch.

---

The Pollinating the Peak team have been working with Chesterfield Borough Council to improve bumblebee habitat at Eastwood Park, Hasland. In May, our staff and volunteers planted over 130 bee friendly flowers, including mint, lavender, lupins and roses, which more than doubled the Bee kind score for this park!

---

**All aboard the Bumblebike!**
Earlier this week, Pollinating the Peak met Rowan, a recent university graduate who is cycling over 600 miles across the country this Summer visiting Bumblebee Conservation Trust projects and giving talks in schools to raise awareness of the plight of the bumblebee, and the great work that Bumblebee Conservation Trust are doing to help conserve the UK’s bumblebee populations.

We took Rowan to see the habitat work that we have been doing with our partners at Eastern Moors here in the Peak District, planting bilberry under specially designed cages which prevent sheep and deer grazing on the young plants, so that they can grown into mature bilberry bushes - great habitat for our precious Bilberry bumblebee!

You can follow Rowan’s ambitious journey on Facebook and Instagram. Rowan is also raising money for Bumblebee Conservation Trust through a Go Fund Me page.

---

**2019 upcoming events**

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.

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

**June**

Sat 29th, 10-3.30pm  **Hardwick Bioblitz**  Hardwick Hall, Chesterfield

**July**

Sat 6th - Sun 7th, 11-4pm  **Buxton Arts Trail**  Serpentine Community Farm, Buxton

Sat 13th, 10-4pm  **Intermediate bumblebee ID training***

Sat 20th, 1-5pm  **Sheldon Day 2019**  Kedleston Hall

Tue 29th, 11-3pm  **Superhero Picnic**  Sheldon, Bakewell

Wed 31st, 11-3pm  **Superhero Picnic**  Markeaton Park, Derby

**August**

Thu 1st, 11-3pm  **Superhero Picnic**  Chaddesden Park, Derby, Derby

*Booking essential
Pollinating the Peak is supported by the National Lottery Heritage 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!

If you wish to be removed from the mailing list, email:
annie.ives@bumblebeeconservation.org

Bumblebee Conservation Trust. Registered Charity No:1115634 / Scottish Charity No: SC042830. All rights reserved. Copyright ©. 2019.