



South & South East & London in Bloom

January 2021 Edition



Well, we start the year pretty much as we ended the last and we at LIB & SSEIB hope you had a safe Christmas and New Year.

South & South East & London in Bloom are planning to run a full range of categories in 2021 but just in case we have several options in reserve if restrictions still apply, allowing for as much participation as possible. More of that in the next edition.

Entry forms have now been sent out via email to all our current, former, and prospective entries and we look forward to receiving your completed forms in the next month. If you have not received this information, please let us know.

The online system is also up and running and if you wish to enter online go to www.inbloom.org.uk where you can select the categories you wish to enter.

This year both London and South & South East in Bloom have introduced new categories to encourage not just community groups and larger categories to enter but also individuals, residential streets, and small businesses.

These new categories are: **Pubs & Restaurants, Hotels & Guest Houses, Front Gardens & Balconies, Grow at Home, Wildflowers & Weeds, Shops Fronts & Workplaces and Residential Street or Road.** These are in addition to our existing categories and will be desktop assessed with all entries receiving a Bloom Award Certificate. We are also introducing two new special desktop awards for 2021. These will be Planting **with a Purpose** & **Growing Your Community.**

Please stay safe and well and let's just hope that despite the current situation we can all pull together to make the second half of 2021 a Bloom'in Better Year.

Robert Player

At the time of publishing we received sad news of the untimely death of one of our long-standing London in Bloom judges Robert Player. A tribute to Robert will follow in the next addition.

Supporting a good cause....

Apart from the obvious implications of COVID 19 both regions suffered other unforeseen events. Since the early 2000's London has been without a main sponsor and has like many regions been fortunate to manage with the entry fees you so generously pay and also the support of a few superb sponsors who have kept us afloat. Sadly, last year London lost considerable income from some of our usual sources. Likewise, in the South & South East region, we lost our headline sponsor of several years, 'Your London Airport Gatwick', and several smaller contributors. While we can keep both regions going with some prudent management, we are looking for new donors, contributors, and sponsors. We have many different opportunities from Headline Sponsor to the sponsorship of one of our many categories so if you know of any likely supporters please let us know.

Community Feature

We are also looking to "pep" up our monthly newsletters by adding articles about your entries. Each month we would like to feature the work of entries from each region and especially covering what you think the benefits are to your Village, Town, Borough or Community. If you would like us to highlight the work of your community and achievement, please send us up to a page of A4 and a couple of images and we will be pleased to publish. Should we get several submissions (here's hoping) will make sure we publish everyone over the coming months. Please send to peter@londoninbloom.co.uk or peter@sseib.com

Commercial Friends of the Bloom

In-Bloom success is often not just about the organisers or the route planning or indeed the Community, it's often about the those who go unseen or unrecognised for their contribution to your success. It may be the local gardening contractors, the local sponsors, a particular council service who ensures the streets are clean, the grass is cut or indeed the commercial shops and businesses in your patch who make a major contribution to your success. So, to further recognise the success and achievements of our communities we would ask you to nominate any contractors, suppliers or supporters who have helped you along the way. We will then invite them to become a "Commercial Friend of the Bloom" for each region.



Congratulation to Space2Grow who received a South West Surrey Heroes Award from Jeremy Hunt for their contribution during the Covid pandemic.

GARDENING TIPS & TASKS LOOKING AHEAD TO FEBRUARY -Reg Leach, Judge, and former Parks Manager

Happy New Year to all our entrants and readers of the bulletin. Let's hope for some normality to return to our lives this year and happy gardening.

This month's topic is lawn care.

Lawn Care:



Provided your lawn is not too soggy after heavy rain and that there is no imminent risk of frost, it's a good idea to start any necessary works to your lawn. Whether you need to repair small worn patches, replace your existing lawn completely, or create a new one from scratch, February and March is a good time to do this.

There are two options to repair or replace your lawn and these are of course seed and turf.

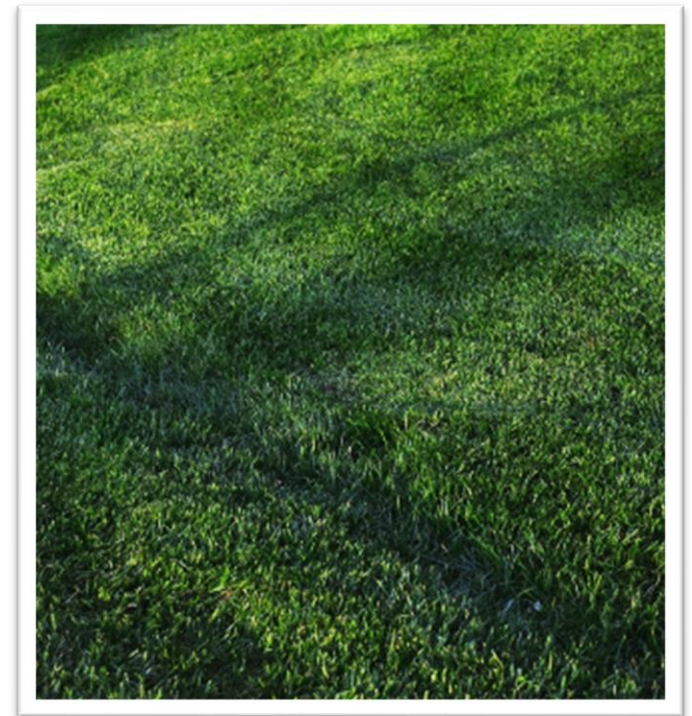
The advantage of turf overseed is that it is immediate, and the new lawn becomes usable much sooner, but it can be expensive if you are creating a new lawn, or if there are lots of worn areas that need repairing.

The benefit of seed is that it is far cheaper, but you will also have the birds to contend with, particularly pigeons and the germinating seed will have to compete with annual weeds wanting to grow in the same space. Another issue may be that of stones, which will work their way to the surface! A seeded lawn will also take longer to establish than turf before it is usable.

Before starting, check what your lawn needs to get it back into shape, as you may not need to completely replace it.

If you never got around to raking out the dead thatch last autumn do so before starting work so you can see the condition of the lawn and it will help you decide what work is required to bring it back to health.

If the main problem is drainage, insert a garden fork to a reasonable depth at 12" intervals across the lawn (known as solid tining) this will improve drainage, introduce air into the soil and relieve compaction. Hollow tining is usually used on fine turf areas where a core of soil is removed and replaced with new compost, but for most domestic lawns this may be a little excessive.



Once solid tining is done, you can brush in a very light covering of a good fine loam to fill up the holes. If the lawn also needs a better grass sward, mix grass seed into the loam before brushing it in.

If your lawn has a severe moss problem it may be due to heavy compaction, or it may be that the lawn is in too much shade for most of the year, in which case you may consider replacing the lawn with something that is more shade tolerant such as shade-tolerant perennials, rather than trying to keep a lawn.



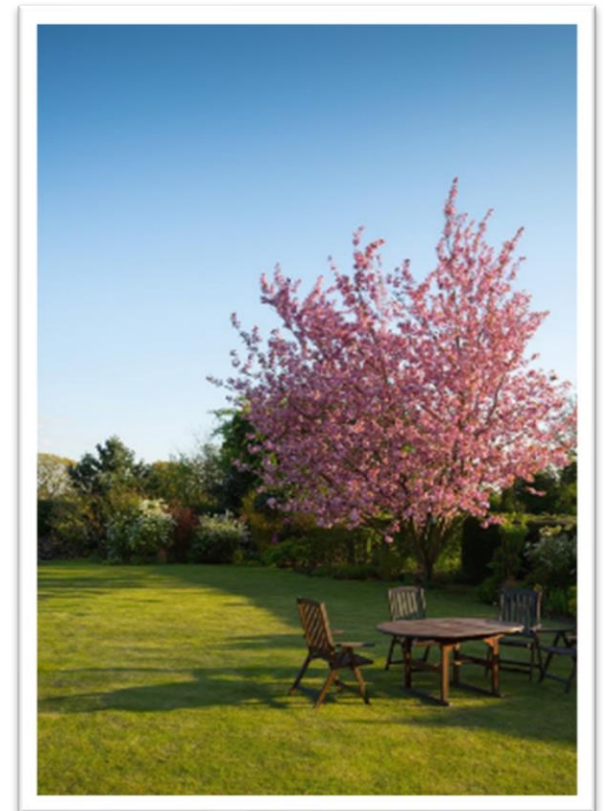
Repairing worn areas in the lawn: These can be repaired either by seed or turf. To do this use a sharp half-moon edger to cut out a bigger area than the worn patch, cutting back to a good sward and remove any remnants of grass and lightly rake the area. If seeding adds a loam and seed mix to the area, up to the existing levels (after firming). You can spread seed onto the surface only, but the birds may eat it all, so I always mix the seed into the soil too. If turfing takes out a depth of soil slightly less in-depth than the thickness of the new turf, allowing for a little settlement. Firm down making sure that the finished level is the same as the surrounding lawn - not too high or too low. Don't use a spade or tread the turf down with your foot, as you will create an uneven surface, always try to use scaffolding boards or similar planks of wood.

Getting the finished levels correct is important to avoid scalping the grass when mowing if too high or depressions in the lawn if not firmed sufficiently and both will affect the quality of the finished cut.

Creating a new lawn: The area needs to be prepared well before seeding or laying turf. Dig out any perennial weeds and remove any dead tree or shrub roots.

The area needs to be level and firmed well (using the heel of your shoes) across the area and in two directions. Rake level and firmly several times until level and firm. Use a straight-edged piece of wood and a spirit level across the prepared area if you are unsure.

If you are seeding don't cultivate too deeply as there is a risk not only of sinkage but also of stones being brought up to the surface. These will cause problems when mowing later on. If stones do appear to rake them off as best you can. If you are turfing don't worry about small stones, as the turf will keep them below the surface.



Once the levels are correct you are ready to sow the seed or lay the turf. With seeding, it is a good idea to rake some of the seed in below the soil surface, but also sow on the surface too, then very lightly rake the whole area. Always sow at a thicker rate than the manufacturer suggests, as pigeons will have their fill!

If you are using turf, lay it in a 'brick fashion' so the joins are staggered. Standing and kneeling on a board (scaffolding board for example), whilst laying the turf, will maintain the levels and prevent your feet from sinking into the soil or through the newly laid turf!

Lay the turf from one end, working along the row, moving forward, ensuring each section of turf abuts the previous one securely. Walking and kneeling on the board as you lay will give a gentle firming as you work. When completed leave the lawn to settle without walking on it. If there are dry spells ensure the turf is kept moist, as you don't want the turf to dry out and shrink.

After a few weeks check if the turf has started to root into the soil – test by carefully lifting a corner of a piece of turf. Once rooted, should the grass start to grow, you can start to mow it, gradually reducing the height of cut with each successive mowing.

If you have used grass seed, it is best to wait until you have a good sward of germinated grass before attempting to mow it. When you carry out your first mowing (of a seeded lawn) just give a very light trim with the mower set at its highest setting, preferably using a mower that has a roller attached rather than a rotary mower or use a separate roller to give firmness to the surface before mowing. Gradually reduce the height of cut with each mowing. Any annual weeds that have germinated will eventually die out as you mow through the season.

At this time of year, another task for your lawn is to redefine its edges, using a half-moon edger, whether the lawn edge is onto a planted border or a footpath. Lawns look so much better if they have clear well-defined edges. A good lawn sets off the whole garden!

If you need to apply a moss killer wait until the weather is warmer, similarly if you need to apply a selective weed killer to your lawn wait until the air temperature rises, as cold air and low temperatures reduce their effectiveness.

Having outlined the work above another to improve your lawn, another alternative is to consider converting your lawn into a wildflower meadow that will greatly benefit wildlife, but that's another story!

This month:

- There is still time to plant trees and shrubs.
- Continue to protect less hardy plants such as Tree ferns.
- Collect up any remaining leaves from the garden and compost them.
- Fork over beds and incorporate FYM.
- Clean and repair garden furniture.
- Plant bare-root plants and trees.
- Disinfect pots and seed trays with Jeyes Fluid so they are clean and ready to use again for seed sowing in the spring.
- Try sowing sweet peas under cloches or on the window ledge.

COMPOSTING - Get the best from your 'Dalek 'shaped bin. - Jean Griffin, Deputy Chair South & South East in Bloom, Horticulturist & Broadcaster



Where should the bin be placed?

The best site is a level, well-drained site. This allows water to drain out to achieve aerobic action (no smells!) within the bin to help the worms and microbes to start breaking down the contents. If you can, place the bin in a partly sunny spot to speed up the breakdown process.

What to put in- Green Materials

The green stuff is mostly good: vegetable peelings, fruit waste, plant pruning material and grass from mowing the lawn. These are quick to rot down and give nitrogen and moisture to the mix. It was always the practice to put tea bags into, but research has shown these bags contain plastics so best to cut the bag open and remove the tea leaves. What a palaver!!! Coffee Grounds are good too.

What to put in- Browns Materials

Shrubby material chopped up, shredded cardboard and egg boxes. These are slower to rot down but provide fibre and carbon and allow air pockets to form thus helping air to get in. Add crushed eggshells to add useful minerals

Keep these OUT - No cooked vegetables, no diseased plant material, no meat or dairy products and no dog or cat litter. Avoid perennial weeds such as dandelions, couch grass and plants with seed heads.

Making Good Compost

Get the mix right by balancing the greens and browns and stir the mixture to let in that all-important air. In dry periods you may need to add a little water or add more greens

Using your compost

The finished compost should be dark brown /black and will be rich in nutrients. Lift that flap, shovel out your compost and give your plants a treat when you spread it around them! Good Luck!



Christmas & New Year Quiz Answers

1. A fungus
2. Acer negundo
3. Impatiens
4. Any Larch species the most common being Larix decidua, Bald cypress (*Taxodium distichum*): Chinese swamp cypress (*Glyptostrobus pensilis*): Dawn redwood (*Metasequoia glyptostroboides*): Golden larch (*Pseudolarix amabilis*): Pond cypress (*Taxodium ascendens*): and of course, the Maidenhair Tree Ginkgo biloba
5. (Aporrectodea longa) & Lumbricus terrestris are the main culprits
6. Viviparous (giving birth to live young).
7. Parasite
8. Garden Pea
9. Nigella
10. Potash
11. Clay flowerpots
12. Loam
13. Levington
14. Watering Cans
15. Callicarpa
16. The Chilean Pine
17. Northumberland
18. Augusta, the Dowager Princess of Wales, founded an Exotic Garden the basis for the current Gardens
19. Oxford or Cambridge Botanical Gardens, Edinburgh or Inverue, National Botanical Garden of Wales
20. Trees that have a serotinous tenancy include pine &, spruce, but cypress, and sequoia can also be included. Eucalyptus in fire-prone parts of Australia and South Africa are also serotinous.
21. Dawn redwood (*Metasequoia glyptostroboides*):
22. A wall to separate pasture from an ornamental garden or grounds
23. Lime
24. Tregothnan Estate Cornwall
25. Orangery
26. Kew Gardens
27. Rocket
28. Self-Blanching & Trench
29. When it's a Pelargonium
30. Camellia sinensis -Tea
31. Stoma
32. Carl Peter Thunberg (1743-1828) was a Swedish surgeon and a botanist.
33. Cyclamen, Erysimum, Hebe, Vinca and Phlomis varieties.
34. Hidcote & Gravetye Manor
35. Prunus x yodenensis
36. Percy Thrower
37. Decimus Burton
38. Crocus sativus
39. Orange
40. Believed to be one of Kew's 'Old Lions' planted in 1762, and one of the few trees remaining at Kew from the original botanic garden
41. Lancelot 'Capability' Brown redesigned the park at Petworth between 1753 and 1765 for Charles Wyndham, the 2nd Earl of Egremont.
42. Chiswick House & Gardens
43. Cork Oak – Quercus suber
44. John Innes
45. Myddelton House – London Borough of Enfield
46. Petunia
47. “Universal”
48. Suttons founded in 1806
49. Bridgewater
50. Leyland Cypress - Cupressus x leylandii,

“Winter Gems”

Despite the cold winter and the restrictions imposed by COVID for us Gardeners and Horticulturists this time of the year brings plants that brighten up even the bleakest of days.

Hamamelis, commonly known as witch hazel, is one outstanding example. Bright yellow, orange or red fragrant, spidery flowers bring colour and scent to your garden in winter. While they may be slow-growing, they can eventually become large spreading shrubs or small trees. A special spot in the garden, perhaps near the house for specimen plants, under-planted with early bulbs such as snowdrops, winter aconites and crocuses will make a real impression.

Witch hazels like well-drained, neutral to acid soil in sun or light shade but will not grow in alkaline (chalky) soils or flower in deep shade. However, these will do quite well in a container. They dislike exposure to cold winter winds, which can damage the flower buds.



Lonicera x purpusii ‘Winter Beauty’ is another good winter flowering shrub with outstanding scent. Probably the best winter-flowering honeysuckle bearing sweet-smelling creamy white flowers on bare stems, from late winter. It makes an attractive spreading deciduous shrub extremely attractive to insects and provides a vital source of nectar for bumblebees, which may have been disturbed from hibernation. Likes moist but well-drained soil in full sun planted close to the house to benefit from the wonderful scent. Good examples can be seen growing trained against a wall. *Lonicera fragrantissima* is a good alternative and has a wonderful set of common names too. Winter honeysuckle, Fragrant honeysuckle, January jasmine, Chinese honeysuckle, Kiss-me-at-the-gate, and Sweet breath of spring.

Wisteria - Jean Griffin, Deputy Chair South & South East in Bloom, Horticulturist & Broadcaster

We all love these wonderful climbing plants which originate from China, Japan, Korea, and some parts of the USA. Don't forget they all need support (don't we all?) in the form of wires of the trellis.



Choosing your plant

Always buy from a reputable source preferably when in flower. Sometimes plants acquired from a stall or offered on a local website COULD be just a root dug up from an existing plant and therefore will be more than likely be from the rootstock of a grafted plant and you will not get a good flowering raceme. Always buy a container-grown plant as Wisteria dislikes root disturbance.

Plant in a sheltered spot, not because the plants are not hardy, but to avoid spoiling the blooms when there is a late frost.

Feed each Spring with a HIGH POTASH feed to encourage flowering BUT beware of feeds with a high NITROGEN content which will encourage too much leafy growth.

Pruning and Training

A two-step pruning plan.

1. In Summer reduce the length of all vigorous trailing growths to 4 to 6 of the compound leaves from the main stem
2. In Winter cut this growth back leaving only 2 to 3 buds. This has the advantage of encouraging larger blooms. Also, reduce any growth that has appeared since the Summer pruning to about 6 inches (6 cms)

At all times make sure that pruning cuts are above a bud and that cutting tools are sharp and clean and disinfect secateurs and loppers before pruning another plant. This cuts down the risk of transferred disease.



Bloom Wordsearch -

Find the plant name hidden in the grid but not on the list

H O R T I C U L T U R E D N E V A L O N
E Y A U S O A T E P E N S T E M O N L Y
L A M L A M I U M O R V E R B E N A E P
L N O I L M G E R A N I U M U I S D R E
E N G P L U M C O R D R I S Y N O E A P
B U S R Y N E I G H B O U R H O O D S E
O A E E S I N D O E R N S O H A S T E R
R L I N U T O R D S T M O S A G O R V E
E R O E M Y S O T I S E V E R G R E E N
R P I N A R E W H Y E N T A L L E G I N
O Y H I D R O D I A Y T H Y M E L E N I
D R A L R O N A M N U A Q U I L E G I A
I E S T O O N H E R B A C E O U S I G L
G T E F O X G L O V E L R W P L A E N O
I H S I T A U I R V U R O S I C E R O N
T R A Z A L E A N I P E R O E S O A L I
A U W I E I G R R O M A N E M O N E E C
L M O N I S A S A L V I A M D A P H N E
I R T O L O D A D A F F O D I L O S A R
S O U T H A N D S O U T H E A S T R T A

Alyssum
Anemone
Annual
Aquilegia
Aster
Azalea
Community
Daffodil
Dahlia
Daphne
Digitalis
Environment
Evergreen
Foxglove
Geranium
Hellebore
Herbaceous
Horticulture
In Bloom
Lamium
Lavender
London
Lonicera
Myosotis
Neighbourhood
Nigella
Oxalis
Paeony
Penstemon
Perennial
Phlox
Plum
Pyrethrum
Rose
Salvia
South and South East
Thyme
Tulip
Verbena
Viola

Prepared by Ruth Growney, Trustee, Regional & Britain in Bloom UK Judge

When judging Villages, Towns and Cities doesn't go as anticipated?

What could be simpler? There is advice on the web site, seminars are run to help entries achieve the best possible result and we have Trustees and judges who wish to see every entry do well and achieve what it sets out to achieve.

So, what could go amiss? Well sadly, each year there is the odd entry who for a various reason don't quite get it right on the day.

So, what can happen

1. Judges arrive and are often offered a short break followed by some kind of presentation, so far so good.
2. Sometimes there is no presentation or a presentation that does not achieve its desired effect or one that overruns the allocated time. The Mayor or a Council Leader is often drafted in out of courtesy to give the presentation and it often turns into a record of his or her achievements, much of which will not be Bloom related. Also, all too often, the presentation covers what will or has been covered elsewhere.
3. Judging should follow on immediately from the presentation, but sometimes there is a long drive to the first stop which eats into the time allocation.
4. Upon arrival at the first stop and then for the rest of the tour it often becomes apparent that it is not as well organised as it might be. Too much time is spent at each stop, several stops tell the same story and very occasionally one person dominates the information being provided with the consequence that the full story is not shared with the judges.
5. Perhaps one element of the criteria is particularly strong, well presented, and managed but takes up a disproportionate amount of time leaving other elements short of time or missed out altogether and can result in a lower award.
6. Small vehicles or vehicles with blacked-out windows give rise to judges being uncomfortable or unable to view the route. Someone sitting between the judges also prevents interaction between judges.
7. Meeting groups while a necessity occasionally results in lost time or missed opportunities to explain what happens or has been achieved.
8. The route itself can also be the downfall of a good entry. The route may concentrate on a particular feature that while being of high quality has a fairly low award tariff. Also, the route may be longer than needed or sometimes take the judges out of the judging area.

Just a few areas where a little better planning could lead to a higher award.

So, what to do to achieve a good award that is truly representative of the entry's achievements.

- a) Carefully read the manuals and criteria and try to understand what the judges would wish to see and hear.
- b) Prepare a route, either walked or driven that meets as much of the criteria as possible.
- c) Write some notes about your community (Bloom Notes) that give the judges some advanced information, this could be an overview/history of the entries Bloom efforts, some facts and figures, such as voluntary hours, internal competitions, Bloom events and fundraising efforts.
 - a. Provide a presentation: This should if possible, avoid what has already been provided and does not go over ground previously covered or that will be covered on the tour. Good imagery with limited but punchy text if in PowerPoint or If showing images on a board or in an album set them out into the three criteria sections of the criteria and explain each section. Make sure that you keep to 15 minutes.
- d) The tour: decide in advance how much of the tour is walked and driven and who will lead each section? If using a vehicle is it suitable? Consider changing the tour leader between stops (judges will get a different perspective from different people and potentially a better understanding of what's being shown).
 - a. Rehearse the route several times and at the same time as the planned judging. Make sure it's timed and overruns are prepared for. Organise who will meet the judges and where. Make sure if possible, they are rehearsed.
 - b. Make sure, if you can, that each element of the criteria is shown (it accepted that it's not always possible) and explain how a particular feature or project meets the criteria.
 - c. Where appropriate and at appropriate points on the Tour refer back to the information previously provided (Judges briefing notes or portfolio). This will confirm to judges the accuracy of previous information and serve as a reminder.
 - d. Try not to show too many examples of the same feature or project. Five parks, or three pubs, four or more community projects while all good can seriously eat into the time and prevent other lesser but important elements being missed. If a judge has seen two outstanding pubs and given a good score, he/she cannot mark any higher if they are shown even more of the same quality. So, only show a representative number of features or projects and ensure as best as possible all, elements have been covered. **Remember less is often more....**
 - e. Make sure you have someone keeping time and making sure that overruns are as limited as possible. Someone should be going ahead of the judges to make sure individuals and groups are ready and waiting for the judges to arrive or any minor issues such as litter have been dealt with. If running short of time, what could be left out?
 - f. If on route issues, such as street weeds, are encountered to be ready with an explanation as to why they are there. This may be due to the local or district council reducing maintenance due to budgetary constraints, but please don't miss telling the judges what the issue is. If you don't, they may not understand who is responsible.
 - g. Please don't assume judges will not see all that there is to see, both good and less good. They are very experienced and knowledgeable and have faced every possible distraction and attempt to avoid what shouldn't be seen. Honesty is always the best option followed by a plausible explanation.

This other advice will be available on our virtual seminars planned for March & April, so watch out for more information in the coming months.

Making a Wildlife Friendly Garden

The Pandemic has given rise to many of us spending more time with nature either on a walk or in our gardens. In our garden's birds seem to have become more confident and plentiful with less traffic, so with this in mind could we do more to encourage and support all forms of wildlife.

Getting closer to nature is a case of providing suitable habitats or feeding opportunities and by making your back garden a haven for nature. Here are many things you can do in your garden to help birds, insects, and animals.



Let the grass grow

Do you have a patch of lawn that could be allowed to grow long? Surprisingly, long grass is a rare garden habitat. By letting an area of your lawn grow it will make space for many plant and insect species, including butterflies and wildflowers. Even mowing the lawn less often (once every four weeks or so) gives 'short-grass' plants like daisies and white clover a chance to flower in profusion, providing a good source of nectar for bees.

Birdboxes and feeding

Creating bird boxes and putting out food will help birds thrive and give hours of enjoyment watching the various species visit each day.

Seeds are best in the winter and spring and protein-rich feed such as fat balls will be welcomed. During the breeding season and especially when there are chicks in the nest try to avoid whole peanuts as small birds such as Blue Tits, Dunnocks and Sparrows can choke on large seeds. Don't forget ground feeding birds who do not use hung feeders, these are Blackbirds & Thrushes, Sparrows, Dunnocks, Robins, Wrens, Chaffinches and Starlings.





Grow climbing plants

Wall shrubs and especially autumn or winter-flowering forms can be very useful plants for wildlife. Flowers provide nectar for insects brought out of hibernation on warm days and as the last opportunity for insects before they hibernate. Fruits on Ivy offer opportunities for food during the winter as does the berries on Sorbus (Mountain Ash) and shrubs such as Cotoneaster & Pyracantha. Climbers provide year-round cover for birds and offer excellent and often safe nesting sites.

Build a hibernaculum

Being ultra-tidy is not always the best for our native birds, animals, and insects. Leave piles of rocks, twigs

and rotting wood in your garden or a pile of leaves offer wildlife a haven especially during the winter. If you have space why not create a shelter for all sorts of important insects, such as beetles and spiders and even reptiles? If you can cover logs, twigs, and old garden wastes with a mound of soils these will make great habitats for a wide range of creatures and a mound provides opportunities for solitary and mining bees to nest. Cover the mound with turf or sow wildflowers to create an important feature.



Create a pond

A pond provides a wide range of opportunities for wildlife. It need not be large. A buried bucket, barrel or trough can support a wide range of wildlife. If planning a larger pond, make sure the edges are shallow to allow wildlife to get in and out. A fairly shallow pond without fish perhaps with a small or miniature Waterlilies will help prevent it from becoming stagnant and provide opportunities for Frogs, Toads & Newts, Dragonflies and Damselflies as well as a plethora of other waterborne inhabitants. Avoid locating it in full sun or full shade if you can.



Compost

A compost heap is a win-win. Making and using your compost will naturally enrich your soil. It will also provide a **habitat** for worms, woodlice, and many other insects, including frogs and slow worms. To avoid attracting rats, only add raw, not cooked food. See article above.



Have a break from weeding

Learn to relax about weeds. Plants such as nettles, daisies and buttercups are important sources of food for many insects, including butterflies and moths. They flower for a long time, whatever the weather providing food when other sources might be absent. This year we have a new category which recognises this relaxation and the encouragement and support for the “Bugs & Beasties” who inhabit our gardens and need wildflowers & weeds as food and protection.

