

Can you help?

We are inviting you to help make Tring a **bee town**.

UK insect populations have suffered badly over the last fifty or so years, due to changes in land use as a result of modern farming methods, urban spread and new transport links. Reductions in pollen and nectar sources have led to a serious decline in the wildlife depending on wildflower-rich habitat. It has been predicted that 40-70% of species could go extinct if action is not taken (www.buglife.org.uk).



Buglife, a charity set up to protect invertebrates in the UK, has drawn up a network of pathways across the country to help stop the decline of bees and other insects in the UK. These B-Lines will create wildflower-rich stepping stones to allow pollinators to move through the landscape. Tring is in a B-Line! You can see a map of these insect corridors and read more on the Buglife website: www.buglife.org.uk/our-work/b-lines/.

We are proposing to work together in Tring to create more wildflower areas for bees and pollinators. We think that if individuals, the local authorities, schools, churches and businesses all play a part, we can achieve this together. You may well be doing a lot for wildlife already, in which case, great! But could you do one or two extra things to help? These can be small actions, such as stopping using herbicides on the lawn, or more ambitious changes such as bee-friendly planting.



What can we do?

- Stop using weedkillers and pesticides on your land
- Leave part of the park/field/churchyard/garden uncut between February and September
- Set the lawnmower to its highest setting and remove the cuttings
- Plant native wildflowers in the lawn (using plugs or seeds)
- Create a wild patch and sow native, organic wildflower seeds
- Plant a bee-friendly shrubs, trees or an even an orchard
- Set up a 'nectar bar' – a range of different-shaped flowers in a group of pots or window boxes
- Plant a flowerbed to provide pollen and nectar for most of the year
- Put up bee and bug houses

Good sources of information:

www.buglife.org.uk/our-work/b-lines

www.bumblebeeconservation.org/gardeningadvice/

www.wildlifetrusts.org/take-action-insects

<https://naturehood.uk/why-naturehood/early-bumblebee>

www.wildlifetrusts.org/actions/how-grow-wild-patch

www.edenproject.com/learn/for-everyone/how-to-create-a-wildflower-meadow-in-your-garden

Please do share what you are doing so we can make Tring a bee town!

Email Justice & Peace Group secretary Michael, michaeldemidecki@gmail.com, or share your activity on Facebook or Instagram

