

## Your Gardening Year

Aim to have something flowering throughout the seasons: Snowdrops in spring through to Michaelmas Daisies in the autumn.

### In Spring

Plant flowers and other plants to attract pollinating insects like butterflies and bees. To support birds, you can choose plants that will later produce seeds and berries.

### In Summer

Think about making a wild patch - leave just a small area where grass, wildflowers or stinging nettles can grow. This will provide important food and habitats for insects, mammals and birds. Don't forget the compost - garden waste, and paper can provide a habitat for invertebrates and of course eventually turn into something which will promote growth in your garden.

### In the Autumn

It's the time to create homes for wildlife for the winter. A pile of sticks and fallen leaves offer accommodation for an array of insects and mammals. If you are having a bonfire, please check that hedgehogs are not nestling in there! Finally resist the temptation to hard prune your border plants. Left intact their seed heads provide food for birds and their stems provide shelter for insects.

### In Winter

As insects die off and hedgerow sources of food become scarce this is the time to top up the bird feeders. They need foods that are high in fats and nutrients. When the frosts are about remember to check that the feeders are not frozen and that there is a source of water.

## Did You Know?

The common poppy is Norfolk's County flower.

Wildflowers flourish on poor soil.

British composts are home to more than 300 species.

The lifespan of a toad is 10 -12 years.

A quarter of all known animals are beetles.

Bats are the only mammal that can fly.

Dragonflies can see in all directions at once.



Squirrels kiss when they meet to recognise each other.

Bees can fly backwards and forwards.

Turtle Doves are the fastest declining bird but there's a home ready for them on Foredale Common.

Brockdish &  
ThorpeAbbotts

Wildlife  
Friendly  
Villages



Creating stepping stones for wildlife

Your Parish Council has taken an important step to improve the health and variety of wildlife in our two villages. We are looking for the support of the whole community in making a few easy changes to their gardens. Many other communities along the Waveney Valley are taking similar action and together we aim to make a significant contribution to combatting the effects of climate change.

This leaflet sets out some simple ideas for changes that you can make in your gardens. These won't turn your garden into a jungle, but they will be much appreciated by our birds, bees, butterflies, moths and other wildlife.



## Pollinating Plants

Garden plant pollinators, are plants you are probably familiar with so try and make sure you include some of these:

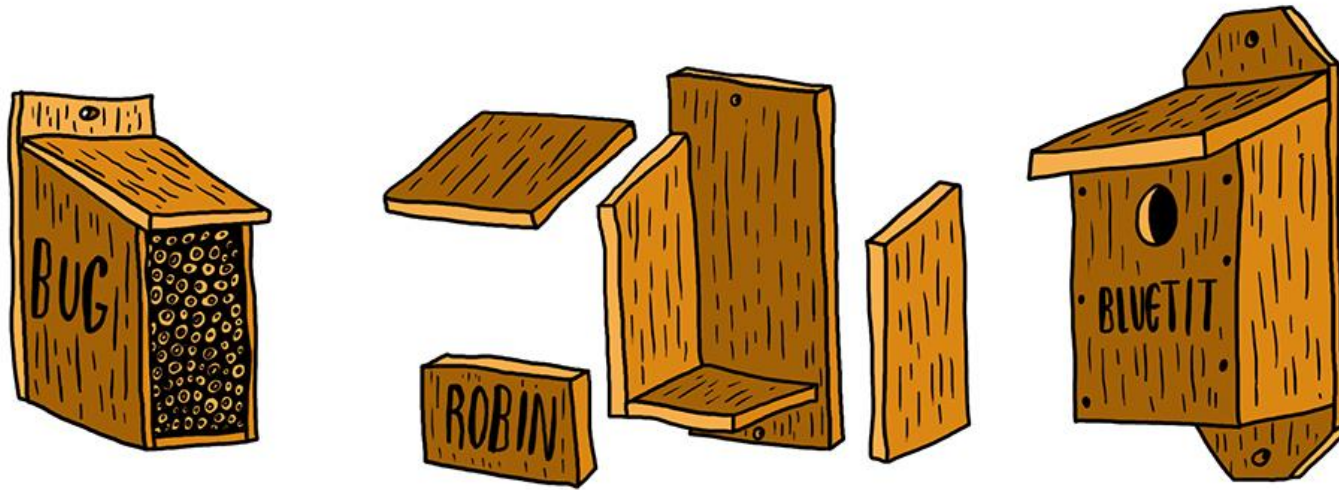
Lavender, Buddleia, Michaelmas Daisy, Hebe, Oregano, Aubretia, French Marigold, Candytuft, Honeysuckle, Cotoneaster, Sunflowers, Roses and Stocks.....and don't forget that vegetables have flowers too, so beans, peas and tomatoes are all helpful. Fruit trees also have a very attractive blossom so think about apple, plum, cherry and pear.

Many wildflowers are now rare, mainly because of the way crops are grown. We no longer see fields of cereal crops with poppies and cornflower. Please try planting some nectar rich wildflowers:



Knapweed, Cowslip, Lady's Bedstraw, Meadow Buttercup, Oxeye Daisy, Red Clover, Yarrow, Bird's Foot Trefoil, Foxglove, Selfheal, Field Scabiousm, Wild Marjoram, Comfrey, Cornflower, Poppy and Cowslip

You can buy wild flower seeds from Emorsgate Seeds  
website: [www.emorsgateseeds.com](http://www.emorsgateseeds.com)  
OR  
Boston Seeds: [www.bostonseeds.com](http://www.bostonseeds.com)



Nest Boxes and Bug Hotels. These are simple DIY projects, or you can buy them. Nest boxes can be made from hardwood, softwood or external plywood at least 15mm thick - not chipboard. It's important to remember that different birds like different homes - so a Robin or a Wren like open fronted boxes about 0.5 m above the ground while the tit family like a 30 mm hole and the box to be 2 - 4 m from the ground. If you like a particular bird, then do your homework on its special needs. Bug Hotels are made in a similar way but open fronted and filled with the hollow stems of plants or canes. These are ideal sites for bugs to breed or hibernate.

## Homes 'n Gardens

Hedgehogs are popular but elusive. You can help protect them by building a house in your garden. Size 30 x 30 cm. Place on a brick with a tunnel sloping to the ground



A pond or a marshy area is a welcome home for amphibians and dragonflies. Ensure there are deep areas and a shallow edge to provide a variety of sites for plants and wildlife but remember that goldfish are not good company for many aquatic creatures !