

# BEE

FRIENDLY  
MONMOUTHSHIRE



# POLLINATORS ARE IN TROUBLE!

Flowers need pollen from other flowers of the same species to produce seed and reproduce. Bees, hoverflies, butterflies and other pollinator insects ensure this by moving pollen from flower to flower. Without these insects we would have few fruits and seeds. In fact, around 85% of our crops rely on insect pollination. No apples, raspberries, cherries, almonds or many other crops without pollinators!

## Yet pollinators are in decline

There has been a 71% decline of butterflies, a 38% decline in bees and hoverflies, and 66% decline in moths over the past 40 years.

## GARDENERS CAN HELP BY MAKING THE BEE FRIENDLY PROMISE





Tawny mining bee  
© Roger Ruston

### Bee Friendly Monmouthshire thanks these organisations:

- Community Foundation in Wales
- Environment Wales
- Gwent Association of Voluntary Organisations
- Gwent Energy CIC
- Keep Wales Tidy
- Monmouthshire Building Society
- New Grove Trust
- The Millennium Stadium Charitable Trust
- Waitrose
- Yorkshire Building Society



GWENT ENERGY CIC



COMMUNITY FOUNDATION  
IN WALES  
SEFYDLIAD CYMUNEDOL  
YNG NGAHYMRU





Large leafcutter bee  
© Roger Ruston



## WHY BEE FRIENDLY?

Pollinating insects, including bees, butterflies and hoverflies, are a vital part of our environment.

Land development, excess mowing, loss of vegetation and herbicides: all remove nesting places and food for these insects. Insecticides kill insect pollinators.

## POLLINATORS ARE CRUCIAL

Pollinating insects maintain the precious ecology of Monmouthshire and, by pollinating crops, contribute vast benefit to the Welsh economy.

*Looking after pollinators is a moral imperative and an economic necessity.*



## AIMS OF BEE FRIENDLY MONMOUTHSHIRE

- ◆ To help Monmouthshire become more *bee friendly* by providing safe and sufficient habitat that help to maintain healthy populations of all natural pollinating insects.
  - ◆ To engage, influence and support the Welsh Government, local authorities, landowners, businesses, schools, communities and indeed everyone to support *bee friendly* activities.
  - ◆ To create widespread public awareness of the importance of pollinating insects and their need for protection.
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- ◆ We are campaigning for *bee friendly* practices at local and national levels.
  - ◆ We encourage the creation, protection, enhancement and connectivity of flower-rich habitats to support pollinating insects.
  - ◆ We encourage local authorities, groups and individuals to reduce unnecessary mowing and cutting of vegetation, reduce use of pesticides, and to retain and plant more pollen and nectar-rich flowers.



Large leafcutter bee  
© Roger Ruston

Bee Friendly Monmouthshire is a not for profit organisation whose aim is to encourage local government, businesses, organisations and individuals to pursue *bee friendly* policies.

You can help bees by completing and returning *The Bee Friendly Promise* by post to the address below or by email to [beefriendlymonmouthshire@gmail.com](mailto:beefriendlymonmouthshire@gmail.com) and we will email you *The Bee Friendly* Pledge Certificate.

Or you can help us to help bees by making a donation of £10. Complete and sign *The Bee Friendly Promise*, detach and send with your donation payable to *Bee Friendly Monmouthshire* to:  
The Treasurer, 17 Lansdown Drive, Abergavenny, NP7 6AW  
We will send you a personalised Certificate and the *Bee Friendly* sign to put in your garden. Thank you.



Orange vented mason bee  
© Roger Ruston

# WAYS TO BEE FRIENDLY

## ◆ PROVIDE POLLINATOR-FRIENDLY FLOWERS

Ensure that plants are in flower from early spring to late autumn. Avoid plants with double or multi-petalled flowers which prevent insects from accessing nectar or pollen. For advice on which pollinator-friendly flowers to grow, please see websites listed below.

## ◆ GIVE PLACES FOR INSECT POLLINATORS TO LIVE

Gardens and unused scraps of land can be a refuge from intensively farmed countryside. Leave wild areas, long grass, piles of dead wood and holes in walls in the garden. Many solitary bees live in small holes in wood. Do not cut down dead plants in autumn as many insects overwinter in plant stems, seed heads and leaf litter.

## ◆ AVOID CHEMICALS THAT HARM POLLINATORS

Insecticides harm pollinating insects. Toxins build up in the soil and are washed into streams and sewers. The better alternative is organic gardening, using natural products and biological controls. Avoid using sticky paper and traps that kill insect pollinators.

## USEFUL WEBSITES

[www.beekind.bumblebeeconservation.org](http://www.beekind.bumblebeeconservation.org)

[www.beesfordevelopment.org](http://www.beesfordevelopment.org)

[www.buglife.org.uk/bugs-and-habitats/pollination](http://www.buglife.org.uk/bugs-and-habitats/pollination)

[www.foxleas.com](http://www.foxleas.com)

[www.gwentwildlife.org](http://www.gwentwildlife.org)

[www.monmouthshiremeadows.org.uk](http://www.monmouthshiremeadows.org.uk)

[www.rhs.org.uk](http://www.rhs.org.uk)

Find us on **Facebook**

Follow us on **Twitter** @BeeFriendlyMon

[www.beefriendlymonmouthshire.org](http://www.beefriendlymonmouthshire.org)

The Bee Friendly Monmouthshire initiative is supported by people from many organisations across the county including: Abergavenny, Chepstow and Monmouth Transition Towns; Abergavenny & Crickhowell Friends of the Earth; Bees for Development; Bumblebee Conservation Trust; Gwent Beekeepers' Association; Gwent Energy CIC; Gwent Wildlife Trust; Humble by Nature; Monmouthshire Meadows; Monmouthshire County Council and Wye Valley Apiaries.

# CAN YOU MAKE THE BEE FRIENDLY PROMISE?

**I/We will take these actions to give safe food and habitat for bees and other insect pollinators**

## FOOD

**Providing pollinator-friendly flowers throughout the year**

*Open-shaped flowers where insects can reach the nectar and pollen*

## HABITAT

**Giving places for insect pollinators to live**

*Long grass, hollow trees, cavities large and small in walls for bees to nest inside*

## SAFETY

**Avoiding chemicals that harm pollinators**

*Herbicides that destroy their habitat and insecticides that kill insect pollinators*

**Signature**.....

Name *(please print)* .....

Organisation *(if any)* .....

Address .....

Postcode ..... Date .....

Tel *(optional)* .....

If you would like to be kept in touch:

E-mail *(please print)* .....

*We will never share your details with anyone else*

**THANK YOU AND WELL DONE!**

***You may now display the Bee Friendly Monmouthshire bee sign in your garden or premises***

