

Why Wildlife?

Urban development has led to many wildlife habitats becoming isolated in a sea of concrete. This fragmentation means that many species cannot migrate to other areas, which they may need to complete their lifecycle.

The more wildlife refuges there are in our gardens, parks, allotments & community spaces, the more connections can be made by wildlife allowing them to survive in the urban environment.

Provide habitats to attract a wide range of organisms - birds, mammals, insects, amphibians, fungi, flowering plants, mosses, lichens - all add to the biodiversity of the area.

It is also very important to care for wildlife for our benefit! Imagine no bird song, buzzing of insects or the smell of sweet nectar!

What Do Animals Need?

Animals need 3 main things - food, water & shelter.

These should be provided throughout the year, so grow plants that will flower & fruit at varying times. This means that your garden will be a continual nectar source & be full of life all year round.

Regular cleaning & restocking of birdbaths & feeders is essential so that regular visitors relying on your garden will not waste their energy!

Before You Grab That Spade...

...Take a step back & look at your site!

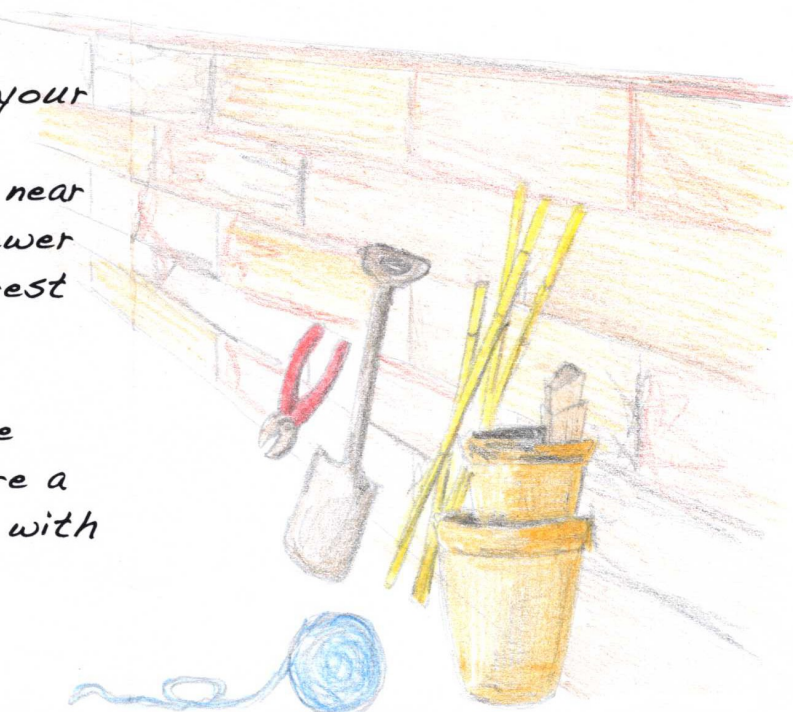
What is already growing here? This will tell you a lot about the soil, shade & moisture retention of your site. These indicators will help you decide on which species you would like to introduce. A thoughtful design will reward you with a flourishing garden.

Observe your site throughout the year.

Planning only in the summer could mean you overlook possible frost pockets, while winter designs may lead you to underestimate shade from vegetation. Remember that shadows will change throughout the season & also as trees grow!

Have good access to your garden. Placing edible plants & bird feeders near to paths will mean fewer disturbances to the rest of the area.

Who will be using the space? Raised beds are a great help for people with back problems.



Plan Bee

Bees are known as a keystone species as they have a disproportionately large effect on the ecosystem.

A huge number of plants rely on bees to pollinate them. Without this service it is estimated that we would lose 1/3 of our current crop species!

Many wild plants are also dependent on bee pollination, without which, fruit will not be produced. Many species reliant on these fruits e.g. birds will then decline.

Decades of pesticide application on an increasingly large area, various diseases & the Varroa mite have all contributed to this, so...

What Can You DO?

1. Clumps of bee friendly plants in sunny places will attract more bees than scattered ones in the shade
2. Provide nest sites for solitary bees
3. Support your local beekeeper
4. SPREAD THE WORD!

Home Sweet Home

Offering a wide variety of habitats & nesting spaces in your garden will attract a wide range of organisms.

Seed & peanut feeders are a great way of attracting a variety of birds into your garden. Make sure they are easily accessible so they can be restocked.

Birds need water to drink & bathe in throughout the year. A birdbath will be greatly appreciated by your visitors, or why not make a pond!

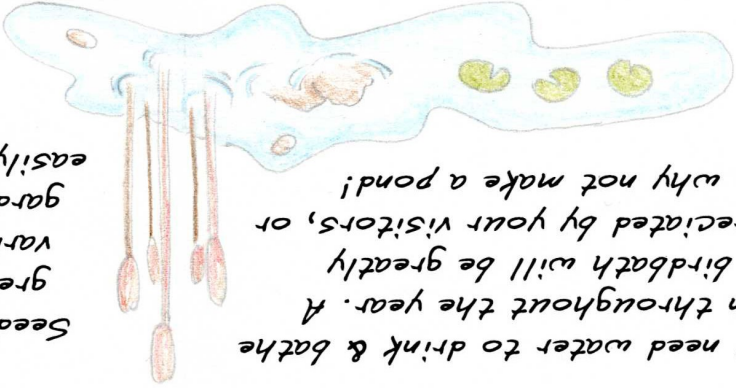
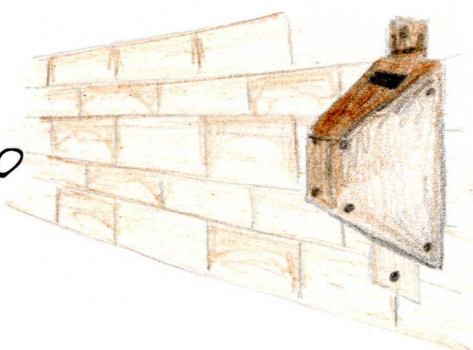
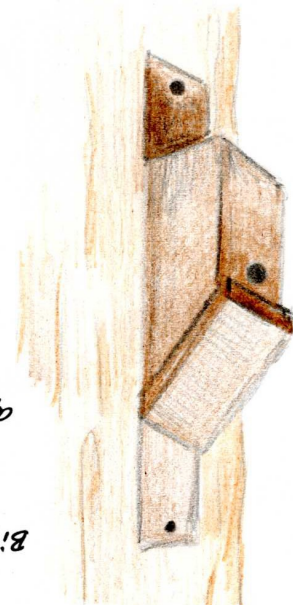
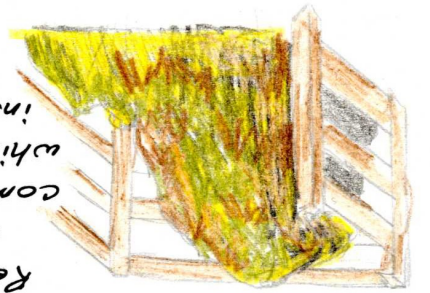
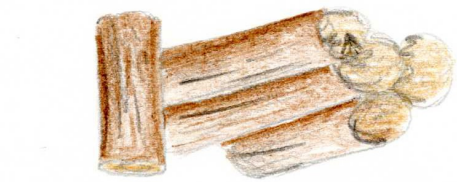
Log & stone piles could be inhabited by fungi, toads & even hedgehogs! Song thrushes often use the top of large stones as an arvil to crack open snail shells.

Place deadwood in the shade to remain cool & damp. Put stone piles in sunny & shady spots to attract a range of species.

With a bog garden you can attract damselflies, bumblebees, honeybees, ladybirds, slow worms, amphibians & much more along with some tasty plants like water mint.

Recycle your waste & create top quality compost for your garden whilst attracting worms, insects, fungi, newts, birds & more.

Bird, bat & bug boxes are all a welcome addition to your wildlife garden, & by attracting lacewings & ladybirds your aphids will be eaten too! Try a few bird boxes with different sized holes to attract a range of nesting species.



Top Tips:

Encouraging wildlife into a space can happen anywhere! Although large areas are very beneficial, even a small flower box will attract a range of species.

Have a shallow edge to any drinking water provided so insects such as bees can quench their thirst too! This can be achieved by placing pebbles in your birdbath.

Spend time designing your wildlife area to achieve its maximum use. Remember to make the most of your vertical space too!

Seed Swaps!

Why not attend a local seed swap to obtain your seeds. Seeds from local plants will be adapted to the local ecology, & attending these events will be cheaper, a great place for local knowledge & lots of fun!

Below are a few ideas to include in your wildlife garden:

Herbaceous perennials with Culinary & medicinal uses:

- Dandelion, *Taraxacum officinale*
- Mint, *Metha arvensis*
- Nettle, *Urtica dioica*
- Oregano, *Oreganum vulgare*
- Thyme, *Thymus vulgaris*

Herbaceous perennials with medicinal uses:

- Bugle, *Ajuga reptans*
- Cornflower, *Centaurea cyanus*
- Valerian, *Valerina officinalis*
- Yarrow, *Archillea millefolium*

Climbers:

- Honeysuckle, *Lauicera periclymenum*
- Ivy, *Hedera helix*
- Old man's beard, *Clematis vitalba*

By Soraya Bishop

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Create Your Own Wildlife Garden!

In collaboration with the University of Edinburgh & Bridgend Inspiring Growth Farmhouse Renovation Project



Bridgend Inspiring Growth