



Honey Bee – Maxim Griffin

Louth In Bloom

In September 2012 Louth was awarded a Silver Gilt in the RHS In Bloom competition. For 2013 we are, of course, going for Gold. The Louth Festival of the Bees is one of the projects organised by Louth In Bloom, raising awareness of the significance of biodiversity and wildlife in and around Louth. We are always looking for more help and welcome new faces so if you would like to get involved please get in touch. Biff Vernon 01507 358413 or visit

www.bit.ly/LouthBees



Buff-tailed Bumblebee, *Bombus terrestris*,
Cornflower, *Centaurea cyanus*: - Photo-Polly Bell

Conference Day

Thursday 23rd May 2013

British Legion Hall,

All day: displays, stalls and workshops

Evening: talks by

Brigit Strawbridge, Mark

Schofield, Jane Bayley &

Val Littlewood.

Wildflowers & Pollinators

Art and Science

17th to 23rd May 2013

Pat Hickson and the Horncastle Botanic Painters

Mike Barwise - Wild Soundscape

Simon Croson, Jonathan Stead &

Gary Woods - Photography

Christine Farmer - Drawing

Cath Hodsmen, Val Littlewood &

Twink Addison - Painting

Maxim Griffin - Graphics

Venues will include:

McKinnells Photographic, Vickers Lane

The Louth Gallery, Upgate

Leaflet 4 January 2013

The Louth

Festival of the Bees

May 2013

A month of activities

**Celebrating Wildflowers, Bees
and other Pollinators.**

With Art and Science

We may not, single handed, be able to stop war, cure disease, end hunger, or save the planet, but we can, each of us, plant some flowers that give the bees and other small creatures a better chance and make our world a little more beautiful.



The wild Red Mason Bee, *Osmia rufa*

Please pass this leaflet on telling others about the Festival.

More at

www.bit.ly/LouthBees

A month of activities, celebrating Wildflowers and Bees with Art and Science, raising public awareness and understanding of the ecology of wildflowers and pollinators.

17th-23rd May. Art exhibitions at various Louth venues, featuring works by specialists in botanical painting and artists for whom bees and wildflowers provide inspiration through drawing, painting, photography and sound. The exhibitions will be curated through scientific eyes, revealing the significance of biodiversity throughout the Lincolnshire Marsh and Wolds.

23rd May. Conference Day. Louth's British Legion Hall hosts exhibitions, demonstrations, workshops and trade stands, all related to wildflowers and their pollinators. In the evening talks will be given by Brigit Strawbridge on Wild Bees, Mark Schofield on Wildflowers, Jane Bayley on African Beekeeping and Val Littlewood on Painting Insects.

Throughout May. The Lincolnshire Coastal Grazing Marsh project are running bee-related events. Check their website.



Val Littlewood: Tawny Mining Bee (*Andrena fulva*)

Let's make Louth a Bee Friendly Zone

Visit www.BeeFriendlyZone.org



A **Bee-Friendly Zone** is a safe place where bees and other insects can nest, forage for pollen and nectar and go about their business without coming into contact with potentially toxic chemicals.

A BFZ can be as small as a balcony or as big as a public park, a village, a farm, a neighbourhood or even a town or city. One day we could even have Bee-Friendly Countries! It's already government policy in Bhutan.

Bees of all species (as well as the honey bee, there are two dozen species of bumble bee and over 200 species of solitary bees in Britain) are declining in numbers because of the increased use of agricultural chemicals and the destruction of their natural habitat.

Bees are important to the health of the natural world, especially wild flowers, and play a vital role in the pollination of our fruit and vegetables - without bees, our diet would be very dull.

How can I make my own Bee-Friendly Zone?

To make place Bee-Friendly, there are two things you must do:

1. Keep it free from all synthetic chemicals, especially insecticides.
2. Plant some Bee-Friendly flowers



Christine Farmer - Leafcutter Bee in flight *Megachile* sp.

You could also:- Plant Bee-Friendly trees. Turn a patch of wasteland into a BFZ by sowing wild flower seeds. Make a bumblebee nest box. Discover how to garden without using insecticides or weed-killers. Leave undisturbed, wild areas in your garden. Get together with friends and neighbours to make your BFZ bigger!

For the best set of links to information about bees and wildflowers on the net visit www.bit.ly/LouthBees



The Louth Festival of the Bees is sponsored by the Co-operative Community Fund.