



NEWSLETTER



Hello!

WELCOME TO THE SBN QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

Thank you for joining us (and sorry it's a bit late (it's been a busy few months...))

UPCOMING EVENT!

I am delighted to say that this year, I'll be running a workshop as part of the New Mills Festival on Wednesday, 17th September.

So, why not come and join me for a fun and relaxed evening building your very own bee nesting box and learning about the wonderful world of solitary bees.

We'll start the workshop with pre-cut materials, all ready for you to sand and treat using only bee- (and eco-) friendly treatments, before we get to gluing and hammering the final box together.

Throughout the workshop, we'll talk about how amazing solitary bees are, and why we should be encouraging them into our gardens, as well as sharing hints and tips on siting your finished box, plus bee-friendly planting suggestions.

Each participant will also receive a bonus plastic-free plant label to take away to start their bee-friendly garden.

To find out more, check out my website or the New Mills Festival Events page. I really hope to see you there!



WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING....



New Bee Nesting Sites...

Well, the new bee bank didn't have any takers for this year, and sadly the same has to be said of the clay-based box. Still, it's early days, and I will keep them fresh and lovely for next season – hopefully some one will notice them and move in.

WORKSHOPS AND EVENTS

I had a brilliant day at the One World Festival – such a great event. I had the new stall set up, with bee boxes, plastic free seed trays, bee friendly plant labels and the usual woolly hats available to buy, as well as some info sheets and other goodies. I was also lucky enough to be part of the conversation tent, aiming to put some joy into working together!

I also ran another session at the wonderful Ladybarn Community Hub, this time at their amazing Green Summer Fair. This was a very family friendly event, so I ran a bee-related quiz with answers to be found round the community garden, had a stall (the local MP, Jeff Smith even bought a box), and ran a bee bomb making session (any excuse to get muddy).

I'm also going to be working with Friends of Buxton Station, who got in touch to ask for help in making their platforms more pollinator friendly.

And finally, I'll be at the Buxton Green Assembly on Friday, 24th October. This looks like another amazing event (what a wonderful place the High Peak is) dedicated to engaging school children in sustainability, nature, and community action. More detail on this to come!



OTHER STUFF....



I've also been doing some more studying and finally took the plunge into the world of bumblebees with the Field Studies Council, completing a bumblebee identification course. I can now fairly confidently identify the 'Big 8' bumblebees, although I'm still a little ropery on the other, rarer species. Still, practice will make perfect.

And continuing on the self-development theme, I've finally taken the plunge and signed up to do my RHS Level 2 qualification. I get a lot of questions on planting, so thought getting some more formal knowledge behind me may be a good idea....

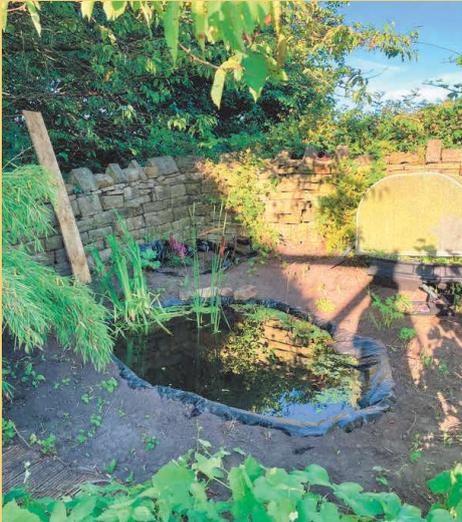
THINGS YOU SHOULD BE DOING NOW...

If you do have any filled tubes that are still out in the garden, this is the time to bring them in as it's unlikely that any more will be filled at this time of year. To keep them safe, pop them in a cardboard box and keep them somewhere cool – a garden shed is ideal. I'll be asking for you to send them to me towards the end of the year, so make sure that they are somewhere safe.

If you haven't had any takers, then you can bring your nest box in now to prevent other creatures from moving in, give them a gentle clean, and leave them somewhere dry ready to go out next spring.



PLANTING FOR SUCCESS



The big garden project for this year was digging a new pond. I already had a small one, but it's hard to see (largely because I was stupid enough to plant water mint – great for bees, but blimey it likes to take over) and I wanted a larger one at the end of the garden. Huge thanks to my mate Kev for his indefatigable digging prowess – we got it dug, lined and filled all in one very hot day. I've already put some native pond plants in, and next will be as many bee-friendly plants as I can fit in round it.

The next move is on the lawn. Now grass is boring. Boring, boring, boring. And needs mowing. Which is boring. And doesn't really do much for wildlife. Which is, you got it, boring.

So, the lawn is going. I've bought a load of wildflower plug plants and am just waiting for the weather to get a bit damper, then it's a final mow, planting it up, then waiting for the spring. With any luck it'll be bye-bye boring lawn and hello wildflower meadow!

BEES TO SEE THIS MONTH...

- Blood bee – one of our cuckoo bees
- Small scissor bee – smallest UK bee species
- Yellow faced bee – common in the UK
- Early bumblebee – common in the UK
- Yellow -legged mining bee – Southern England
- White tailed bumblebee – common in the UK
- Four-banded flower bee (mainly found in the South East)
- Pantaloony bee (sandy areas, coastlines)
- Davies plasterer bee – common in England and Wales



*Small Scissor Bee ([gailhampshire](#)
from Cradley, Malvern, U.K*

DIARY DATES...

Wednesday, 17th September: 7 – 9pm – Bee Box Making Workshop as part of New Mills Festival

Friday, 24th October: The Buxton Green Assembly – interactive stall and activity TBC!