



Warwickshire Climate Change Community Newsletter

www.warwickshire.gov.uk/climatechangepartnership

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BEE HABITAT MEADOW – AN ENVIRONMENTAL ART PROJECT

Believe it or not there are now no wild colonies of the humble British honey bee left in the country and the health of managed bee colonies has declined to a state where they are highly susceptible to viral diseases and the effects of poor weather.

Honey bees are vital pollinators of food crops, garden flowers and wild plants, their populations are in serious decline, not only in the UK but around the world. The reasons for this are complex and are not fully understood, what we do know is that this decline is partly due to new parasites and diseases coupled with the effects of increased intensification of agriculture.

The consequences of the decline in honey bee populations will be profound as about one third of our food comes from plants pollinated by honey bees. If numbers of honey bees and other pollinating insects, (which are also in serious decline) fall much further, then food production is likely to be placed under serious strain.

In November 2007 Lord Rooker, the former food and farming minister, declared in the House of Lords that if things went on as they were, the honey bees in the UK would be extinct within 10 years, this situation has since worsened. Despite the scale of the threat, little is being done to address the problem and the environmental goods and services provided by honey bees continue to be taken for granted. Honey bees are the little things that run the world that are seldom seen by most of society but on which we are utterly dependent.

As a result, the Woodland Trust, the UK's leading woodland conservation charity has joined an environmental art project led by Warwickshire artists Wendy Campbell-Briggs and Ann Loscombe. The artists have brought together Warwick HRI and members of the

Student Union at Warwick University, Landlife, the Federation of Women's Institute and the Warwickshire Branch of the British Bee Keeper's Association. As a group they will create a bee-friendly meadow at the Trust's Millennium Wood site which overlaps the University grounds. A managed but natural environment will be established on an existing meadow in which a bee community can flourish with the help of volunteers drawn from these local groups. The development of the meadow will be documented in a blog and through wider publicity providing a platform to educate the community into a full awareness of the problem, and most importantly what can be done to mitigate it through practical action. The artists plan to showcase the meadow during Warwickshire Artsweek which takes place between the 3rd and 18th July 2010.

As one of over 1000 woods owned by the Trust across the UK, all of which are home to many thousands of species of birds, mammals and invertebrates, this one site is a fantastic example of how woodland can be used for the benefit of wildlife within. We hope that the Warwickshire wood can be used as a shining beacon to enthuse an as-yet untapped thirst for bee keeping across the country to save our honey bee!

The Woodland Trust believes in preserving our native trees and woods, expanding these areas and protecting the biodiversity within. Coming together locally with like minded groups and individuals to undertake schemes such as the bee meadow we hope that we can engage people to protect their local woodland.





Funding Scottish Power Energy People Trust

Organisations and groups can apply for funding to support projects or schemes covering...

- Crisis funding such as emergency accommodation
- Benefits health checks or income maximisation
- Energy efficiency measures and advice
- Research, for example into the link between fuel poverty and health

The trust will award grant funding up to a maximum of £100,00

For further information email enquiries@energypeopletrust.co.uk or call 0141 568 3388



A Green Valentines Day

Top Tips For Valentines Day

- Just because we want a green valentines day doesn't mean you can't get chocolates, How about a Divine Valentine Fair Trade Chocolate Heart.
- Give your loved one a locally grown plant. Bouquets in florists have usually been grown on the other side of the world – think of the carbon
- Celebrate with organic wine or champagne.
- If your splashing out on jewellery how about something fair trade, recycled or vintage?
- Make your own card or support a local artist who hand makes cards from recycled materials
- Treat your loved one to a romantic candle lit meal served at home serving local, organic and seasonally produced ingredients, whilst this will set the mood for a romantic evening it will also save money and carbon (but you don't need to tell your loved one that bit)



Love Food, Hate Waste

Rotting food buried in landfill sites generates methane, a greenhouse gas over twenty times more potent than carbon dioxide and a major contributor to climate change. Of the 6.7 million tonnes of food that are thrown away every year in the UK, 4.1 million tonnes is unopened and untouched. Of this, 340,000 tonnes is still in date. This is largely a result of a lack of meal planning, but also of over supply, 1.2 million tonnes of food waste is simply left on our plates.

Each household in Warwickshire is currently throwing away an average of £420 a year in wasted food.

On the week commencing the 14th February, the Waste Minimisation Team will be running a love food hate waste week. The team will be running various events across the county, with giveaways, information and being on hand to offer any advice you may require.

For more information or if you would like resources (leaflets and recipe cards) to help promote this campaign please contact Caroline Faulkner on 01926 412458 or email carolinefaulkner@warwickshire.gov.uk

Have your say



This is your newsletter and your opportunity to publicise any events you may be holding, and let other groups know what you are currently up to share your experiences. What do you want to see in future editions?

Please send all comments or enquiries about this newsletter and suggestions, for news items, case studies, details of events etc to

emmaclarke@warwickshire.gov.uk



Donate your magazines

No use for those magazines you bought for the train ride home? Why not donate glossy mags that you've finished with to doctors, dentists and hospitals as a re-use alternative to recycling.