

Pollinator Friendly Symington – September 2023 update

‘Friends’

6 months after starting the project, we have 18 gardeners signed up as friends, with several other gardeners that we are yet to visit.

All of their gardens, which range in size, help with our aim of creating a network of pollinator friendly habitats.



Benefits for signed-up friends

Most of the seed packets kindly provided by Hayes Garden Land have been handed out to signed-up friends and I now need to lobby for next year's seeds.

A variety of leaflets and information from Wildlife Trusts, such as '*A beginners guide to gardening for pollinators*', '*Wildlife gardening*' and bee and butterfly identification guides, have been supplied to gardeners.

...and Lynne Bates, coordinator for our partner; the Scottish Wildlife Trust's Nectar Network, has provided support, encouragement and expert advice throughout.

The 15 procured garden signs have been handed out to our signed-up friends and the Co-op has agreed to fund another batch of signs, which aim to engender the feeling of being part of a community.

Events

- At the end of August, a number of friends attended a bat walk in Shaw Park and the church yard, led by Ayrshire Ranger, Joanne McEwan. We heard (with bat detectors) and saw several Soprano pipistrelle bats - identified by the 55 kHz frequency of their calls. Joanne has agreed to perform more bat walks next year.
- During August and September, the Ayrshire Rangers lent us a moth trap, which has been used in 9 different gardens. We succeeded in trapping many different species of moths, a list of which I am currently collating.
- On Tuesday 26 September, we are holding an evening for friends of the project to celebrate everyone's efforts, which will involve a variety of activities but primarily aims to help engender a community that shares ideas and resources.

Partner; Nectar Network (Scottish Wildlife Trust)

In June, NN Coordinator, Lynne Bates, gave a short talk on PFS at a Scottish Wildlife Trust staff meeting, which was evidently well received. A new Scottish Wildlife Trust project; Nextdoor Nature, is looking for several community led conservation projects in Scotland to be showcased on its website and has chosen PFS for its first project to be showcased. A videographer has made his first of several visits to Symington in order to compile material for a 5 minute video, which included interviewing several friends.

Pollinator Friendly Symington – September 2023 update

Tree Planting

We have proposed to SAC the planting of 53 trees around the village, some of which will replace trees that have been felled over the past couple of years.

Among their many other benefits for us all, trees provide pollen and shelter for pollinators.

Wildflower Verge

We will be cutting our wildflower verge on Thursday 28 September, starting at 10am.

Any willing volunteers are welcome to join us to help cut the verge and collect the arisings.