



## Be a Bee Friendly Gardener

To all our young gardeners, ecologists, naturalists and wildlife heroes!  
Can you help our local wildlife by being a Bee Friendly Gardener?



The **Ampt Hill Buzz** is setting up "Bee-Friendly Zones" around our town. You might pass one of our signs on your way to school, or have a "Bee-Friendly Zone" by your home.

But our wildflowers and wildlife need your help too! Your garden joins up with other parks and woods in Ampt Hill that give food and water to wildlife and places for them to rest and nest. We can help wildlife by giving them the things that they need in our gardens.

There are lots of ideas of what you can do, but these are our top four:

### 1. Leave a bit of a lawn to grow and see what wildflowers come up.

Instead of mowing all your lawn, just leave an area to grow for a few weeks or even for the whole summer and see what comes up.



*Do any flowers appear? How many are there? Do you know what they are?*



## 2. Plant a flower that bees, butterflies and other bugs like

Bees and butterflies need the flowers in our gardens. They drink the sweet nectar and feed on the pollen inside the plant. Then they share the pollen with other flowers so the plant can make more of itself. The insects that do this are called pollinators.



Some flowers are better for feeding pollinators. Look out for this special sign when out shopping for plants:



RHS 'Plants for Pollinators' logo

You can try and have a plant in flower all the way through the year. (Watch out for those with a double set of petals though. If you can't see the centre, a bee probably can't get to it either.)



*What have you planted recently for bees, butterflies and other bugs? Have the bugs found your plant yet? Was it a bee or butterfly or something else?*

## 3. Make a bug hotel by leaving some sticks and stones in a quiet corner

Bugs need somewhere to rest and hide, and a bundle of hollow stems or a small pile of logs or stones may be just what they need.



*We would love to see what you have made!*

*Image by [Meli1670](#) from [Pixabay](#)*

#### **4. Put out a shallow bowl of water**

All creatures including birds and bees need a drink especially on a hot, sunny day!



*Have you seen any birds drinking or bathing in the water? What about bees and other insects?*

*Image by [Onkel Ramirez](#) from [Pixabay](#)*

We would like to find out about what you have done to be "Bee Friendly". Email us at [hello@amphillclimatechange.co.uk](mailto:hello@amphillclimatechange.co.uk), and send us some writing, photographs or pictures you have drawn of the ways you are helping wildflowers and wildlife. You can keep a list of the different bees, butterflies and other bugs you see and where you saw them, and send that to us too.

You can also post your writing and pictures to:

The Ampthill Buzz, Ampthill Town Council, Park Lodge, Ampthill Great Park, Woburn Street, Ampthill, MK45 2HX.

We would like to add your writing, pictures and photos to a gallery\* on our website.

We will reply with a link to a poster you can download for your window.

*\*Note to parents and carers: we will only display first name and age on any contributions to our gallery.*