

St Alban's going for Bronze in 2024

Create habitats for wildlife in your garden using ideas from www.rhs.org.uk

A small space or lack of a garden doesn't mean you can't help wildlife. Ground beetles, centipedes and woodlice can make a home under a pot, a robin may choose to nest in an undisturbed hanging basket and pollinators flock to container favourites such as lavender and nasturtium



Your lawn can be a rich environment for wildlife. Short grass is a good spot for birds such as blackbirds to search for ants and earthworms. Allowing your lawn "weeds" such as clover and dandelions to flower in between cuts will provide nectar for pollinating insects and seeds for birds. Joining in NO MOW MAY and letting the grass grow long can feed the caterpillars for various butterflies.

If you have the room in your garden you could make a small pond, if you don't have much space, make a pond in a plant pot or a washing up bowl (see our March Eco Newsletter) - it will still be a help to wildlife

You can also put out a source of shallow water for birds and other wildlife to use for drinking and bathing.



If your garden lacks a lot of natural cover and nest sites, put up nest boxes for bats and birds.

You can also install solitary bee nesting tubes though remember to clean out or replace every two years in late summer.



Having well-stocked flower beds means there are lots of provisions for wildlife. They are a source of nectar and pollen for bees, butterflies and other flower visitors. As the flowers go over there are seed heads for seed-eating birds and insects. And if the annual cut back of is delayed until early spring, there are hollow stems and foliage available for overwintering invertebrates.

In the natural world decaying vegetation and dead wood teems with just as much life as the green, 'living' parts of a garden. We can create this wonderful habitat in many ways, from building a simple log pile or compost heap or leaving our fallen leaves just that little bit longer.

Dead wood provides habitat for approximately 20% of Britain's woodland insect fauna. Logs and standing dead timber is food for wood-boring insects that in turn are eaten by birds



Decaying plant material seethes with springtails, worms, mites and other invertebrate animals. They are part of the composting process and, along with bacteria and fungi, will convert the vegetation into a rich, crumbly compost. The heap will also be an important feeding area for birds and insectivorous mammals.

Good for wildlife AND good for your garden plants. It's a win win situation all round

A cairn made of our rocks and bricks, covered in turf or a layer of soil up to 45cm (18in) deep will provide a snug overwintering shelter for frogs, toads, newts and reptiles, not to mention many other creatures too. Called a 'hibernaculum', it can also be made in a pit but you will need to insert some pipes or tubes into the pit hibernaculum as you construct it to provide easy access for animals.



Try placing some large, flat stones or slabs on the ground around the garden. Thrushes can use these as 'anvil stones' to crack open snail shells. Listen out for the tell-tale 'tap-tap-tap' of a thrush at work, getting at its tasty meal.

Our church BUG HOTEL is coming along nicely and has lots of creepy crawlies living inside it



MAKE A HOME FOR WILDLIFE IN YOUR GARDEN THIS MONTH