**![C:\Users\Catherine\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\KGLX4JXS\MC900020474[2].wmf]() Bee World – Llangollen Community Garden**

**Background**

Friends of the Earth has a project to create 60 new Bee Worlds as part of its Bee Cause campaign. These areas will provide rich sources of nectar for pollinating insects and all will be in areas with public access. Many of the projects are concentrating on turning neglected land or plain grass park areas into wildflower meadows.

 In Llangollen our own Bee World will be an integral part of our new Community Garden. We hope that the public will be able to see the kinds of things they can do in their own gardens to really encourage bees and other pollinators and we plan to create a rich habitat combining many elements including wild flowers, fruit trees, cottage garden annuals/ perennials and even vegetables to provide lots of nectar. Below is an outline of some of the important plants for our Bee World.

**Our Wild Garden Framework**

Our garden already had many great plants for bees before we started work. The Community garden will always retain some wild fringes and we feel it is important to show the kinds of wild plants that many people may have at the edges of their gardens that are great for bees.

**Trees** : Sycamore, Willow & also the old Apple trees we have inherited

Trees when in flower can be important early sources of nectar for bees. We also have many old apple trees on site. We hope to rejuvenate some of these by careful pruning later in the year.

**Shrubs**: Ivy & Bramble & some old inherited Buddleia which we have pruned back

Bramble, if in sunny areas where it can flower, is great for nectar & birds too. In time we will have to clear more of the brambles, to extend the garden, but for now we see it is an asset, not a weed!

**Plants**: Wild garlic, Meadowsweet, Primrose

We are lucky to have a wonderful snowdrop bank along the top of the wall which is the boundary to our plot. The bank is now full of bluebell and primrose, with oxeye daisy fast coming up. An ideal Bee World needs to provide nectar from earliest spring until late autumn.

**Plants Already Added to our Garden**

Although we want the garden to be a productive vegetable and fruit garden, we want it to have a real biodiversity. We want flowers too, not just because they look pretty, but because they also support a range of beneficial insects which will help us to garden organically.

**Small Shrubs** : Lavender & Hyssop

**Herbs** : Mint, Rosemary. Oregano, Chives & Sage

**Wild Plants** : Foxglove, Cowslips, Bugle

**Cottage Garden Plants** : Snowdrop, Welsh Poppy, Aquilegia, Sweet pea, Pulmonaria, Comfrey

**Flower seeds** : Wild Flower mix & Cornflowers

**Vegetables** : Broad Beans & Peas

**Fruit :** Strawberries, we have also been donated some bushes including a Tayberry and Loganberry

There are very old raspberry canes on site, which we are waiting to see if they are productive. We also plan to add more fruit bushes in the autumn.

**What We Will Be Planting Today**

Today we plan to continue to create our Bee World by adding new plants and seeds to our garden. We are sowing a wildflower mix without grass, since for small gardens this is often more suitable where people want the flowers without grasses. We are also planting a very mini wildflower meadow area as an experiment! For meadows the soil needs to be poorer otherwise the grasses tend to dominate at the expense of the flowers. Each year the meadow is cut. For a summer meadow this entails two annual cuts one in spring and one in autumn. At each cut the cuttings are removed (to reduce fertility).

**Seeds :** Wild Flower Mix, Wildflower Meadow Mix, Phacelia, Nigella, Sunflower seeds (in pots)

**Plants :**  Oxeye Daisy, Japanese Anemone, Echinops, Evening Primrose, Lavender, Campanula, Perennial Geranium, Wild strawberry, Hollyhock, Thymes, Sage, Lupins, Wallflowers & Ragged Robin

Many of the plants have come from our own gardens since dividing perennials or potting up seedlings is far cheaper than visiting garden centres! So look around and see what friends & neighbours are growing successfully and do some swaps. (Best time for dividing suitable plants is spring and autumn).

**Finally**

We hope you have enjoyed your visit. Do come again to see our progress.

For those keen on getting involved we garden at least twice a week, currently one weekday evening & a Saturday morning session. You don’t have to come every week, come when you can!

**Contacts**

This information sheet is also on our website : <http://www.llangollengarden.co.uk>

We also have an active facebook page : [www.facebook.com/LlangollenCommunityGarden](http://www.facebook.com/LlangollenCommunityGarden)

For the Bee Cause Campaign go to : [www.foe.co.uk/bees](http://www.foe.co.uk/bees)

**Llangollen Community Garden Contacts**:

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