

Wednesday 13th March 2019

I read in a magazine from the Dorset Wildlife Trust that private gardens in Dorset make up 'an estimated 27,500 acres'. So we can make a difference growing plants loved by pollinators. Not only that, we can contribute to their future.



As we've been noticing, the Hellebores have been very popular with the bees in the last few weeks. Kate Bradbury is a gardening expert who is passionate about bees. In her book, 'The Bumblebee Flies Anyway', she describes how she fed a tired bee.

I have to say I haven't tried it myself. However, in the Hengistbury Wildlife Garden we have Lavender, Salvia and Viper's Bugloss which are all pollinator friendly.



In the red brick wall, there are a number of short bamboo canes. The solitary bees lay an egg and leave food for the developing grub. To keep it safe, you will notice they block up the canes with a muddy substance. Once grown the young bee will come out into the garden.

Kate also suggests leaving areas of nettles and longer grass for butterflies and their caterpillars. We have privet for the Hawkshead moths, which are recorded in our moth trap before being released again. We are hoping the Bedstraw we brought in last year will also establish for the same moths.

From the Hengistbury Head Gardeners