

Seed Harvesting Event

Visit the Flintshire County Council Website through the QR code below to Learn more about our action

Cymraeg

Mae'r ddogfen hon hefyd ar gael yn Gymraeg - gweler y dudalen Gymraeg ar ein gwefan.

This document is also available in Welsh - see Welsh page on our website.



County Hall Coronation Meadow Summer 2019

Find out more

FIT Count:
ukpoms.org.uk/fit-counts

Grow a mini meadow:
www.wildlifetrusts.org/actions/how-grow-wild-patch-or-mini-meadow

The best plants for pollinators:
www.wildlifetrusts.org/actions/best-plants-bees-and-pollinators

Guide to water sources
www.wildlifetrusts.org/actions/how-provide-water-wildlife

In gardens: RSPB bug hotel:
www.rspb.org.uk/helping-nature/what-you-can-do/activities/build-a-bug-hotel

Flintshire in Flower:
Our wildflowers and grasslands

Wild about wildflowers!

Wildflower meadow habitat has reduced by 99% in the UK due to changes in management, development and infrastructure, and farming practices.

Caru Gwenyn
Bee Friendly

Ariennir gan
Lywodraeth Cymru
Funded by
Welsh Government

CYNGOR
Sir y Fflint
Flintshire
COUNTY COUNCIL

Meadows and grassland are important for our pollinators birds, mammals, amphibians and reptiles and provide essential services for us!

Most of our grassland sites have been managed intensively over many years, through regular mowing (often with grass cuttings left on the ground). This causes grasslands to become nutrient rich or fertile. These nutrients promote the growth of rough grasses which outcompete wildflowers, gradually reducing the wildflower seedbank in the ground.



Meadow magic

- Meadows and grassland provide food and shelter for pollinators and other insects. Insects are essential food for lots of other wildlife. Pollinators also mean plants are able to fruit, seed and re-grow. 1 in every 3 mouthfuls of our food is pollinated by an insect!
- Wildflowers also create a nicer place for walking and recreation. It looks nicer and spending time in a natural place is proven to make people feel calmer.
- Increasing natural vegetation can help reduce pollutants in the air.
- Natural areas can help reduce surface water flooding. Heavy rainfall can be absorbed into the permeable ground and by plant root systems, slowing the flow.
- Natural areas are important to help slow the impacts of climate change. It's not just trees which absorb carbon. Growing vegetation like grasses and wildflowers and their root systems absorb carbon from the atmosphere and often the more variety in the habitat the better it does this!

Let it grow

We have over 150 sites across Flintshire County Council land which are managed for wildflowers and pollinators. We have a range of sites from naturally diverse sites, where we have started managing the sites to protect the existing wild seedbank, to sites we have created by sowing with seed is sown. These hugely benefit our pollinators providing habitat stepping stones in the landscape.

The majority of our wildflower sites will receive one cut in the late summer/early autumn after the wildflowers have flowered and set seed. The cuttings at the sites will be collected to ensure the soil low in nutrients and provide the right conditions for wildflowers to grow.

Seeds of change

Flintshire County Council are working with the North Wales Wildlife Trust harvesting wildflower seed from Flintshire and the surrounding area to protect local seed. Locally sourced seed is better adapted to local conditions, considered to have a higher success rate, and has a lower carbon footprint than commercially bought seed. We are introducing our local seed into suitable managed wildflower sites.

Pesticides are used to control pests, weeds and diseases and can be harmful to the environment and human health. They include pesticides, fungicides and herbicides. They can persist in the soil, contaminate water and harm wildlife.

At Flintshire County Council we are minimising pesticide use, and using non-toxic alternatives to control unwanted weeds in our urban areas.



Wild impact!



There are many different things you can do to support wildlife at home! See some ideas below:

- An important part of nature recovery is sharing knowledge and understanding. Flintshire County Council often organise and attend events to talk about this important habitat. Look out for our events.

  Leave part of your lawn to grow long for nature through spring and summer to see what flowers and buzzes around your garden.

Plant native (seed indigenous to the UK) wildflower seeds in your garden - whether that be in pots, troughs, flower beds or your lawn. You can even put them in a on your windowsill!

- Provide a water source in your garden - a dish of water is enough or if you want to be more adventurous, make a pond!
- Get curious - do an easy 10 minute Flower-Insect Timed (FIT) Count to find out what's made your garden a home. For more information, look at the resources below.
- Leave twigs and leaves in the corner of your garden - many insects use these areas to hide and feed.
- Make a bug hotel - an ideal place for bugs to hide and solitary bees to lay their eggs. see below to find out how.