

How to Bee Friendly & Sign Up for the Trail

Help for those helping our pollinating heroes

We hope this trail will be a really enjoyable community event and have been busy bees behind the scenes helping our community groups, nurseries/preschools and primary school to get involved.

Trail basics = pollinator-friendly plant + out front + decorative display of bees/other pollinators

Step 1. Find yourself a pollinator-friendly plant that can be on show in front of your home.

Pre-existing or new (e.g. bought from our [pre-trail sale](#) 😊).

One plant or a group of bee-friendly beauties.

Permanently out front or temporarily on show during the trail (e.g. if short on space or generally you/the plant are happier with it in a different position).

It could be in a pot/planter/trough/window box, in a bed, up a trellis, within a wall, peeking between pavings or in a pond!

We'll welcome herbs, wildflowers in your lawn, perennials, shrubs, trees, a hedge, a climber, a bed of bright annuals or free flowers a.k.a. weeds.

A flowering period over the trail dates in July will be celebrated as a bonus; it is not essential - we should be providing nectar for pollinators all year-round, especially since our changing climate is muddling their body clocks.

Our only request is that you check your 'participating plant' is pollinator-friendly.

Choosing a pollinator-friendly plant may seem a daunting prospect but there is a lot of help available, especially online.

First, you need to **ignore all the 'unfriendly' flowers** – that includes common **bedding** plants (e.g. Begonia, Busy Lizzie, Petunia, Pelargonium (tender geraniums)). The other key tip to remember is '**don't do doubles**' (e.g. highly cultivated roses) – 'double' flowers have extra petals that make their nectar and pollen inaccessible for our pollinators.

Try out the **Bumblebee Conservation Trust's Flower Finder** online or look for the **RHS's 'Plants for Pollinators' logo** (bee in a circle) on seed packets and plant labels/descriptions.

For further guidance (including cost-effective options), check out our articles in the May-July issues of The Grapevine (available at St Nicholas Church or from Dunnington Newsagents).

Okay, maybe one more request ... whatever you grow, please do the climate-friendly thing by using **peat-free compost** (e.g. the Dalefoot range (inc seed compost) available at Dean's Garden Centre).

Step 2. Plan a bee-based decoration or display.

We'd like you to show a little love for our pollinating heroes – bees and others (e.g. butterflies, moths, hoverflies, wasps, beetles) at the front of your home. Some ideas include:

- a simple decoration (perhaps also purchased at our [pre-trail sale](#)!);
- some colourful home-made bunting with a bee-friendly message; or
- a bee-based scene (e.g. nectar bar, bee-witched, bee tea party, Bee-yoncé).

Step 3. Sign up for the trail.

Please e-mail Dunnington Green Initiatives Group at DunningtonGIG@gmail.com letting us know your display address, if possible your 'participating plant' and whether you'd like details on how to participate in our kids' art competition. If you're not on e-mail, please post a note with these details and your phone number to 7 Water Lane. The deadline for registering is **Saturday 16th July** to give us time to produce and print the map/list of participating addresses. Late entries may not make it onto the list.

Please display your plant & decorations and any art competition poster from **10am-6pm** on **23rd & 24th July**.

It'll **bee** brilliant to see our community creating a **buzz** around our village.