



Wildlife Friendly Gardening

Issue One

Green Spaces



Martlesham
Parish Council

Green Spaces

Whether you have a large garden or a simple balcony, we want to provide you with all the tools you need to create a wildlife friendly space that suits your style and feels like home.

Make the most of your space

Even small gardens and balconies can provide valuable habitats for wildlife. Consider including:

- Using walls, fences, roofs and other structures creatively.
- Adding window boxes or containers with nectar and pollen rich plants like lavender or thyme.
- Hanging bird feeders.
- Providing a water source that is suited to your available space.

Reduce the amount of hard landscaping

Traditional patios and paving can impact your garden's ability to drain effectively; it also reduces opportunities for wildlife to thrive. If feasible for your garden, you can:

- Reduce the amount of hard surfacing in your garden.
- Opt for permeable surfaces like grass or gravel as an alternative for small paths and other paved areas.

Improving the Sustainability of your Garden

You can make your garden more environmentally friendly by:

- Installing one or more water butts to collect rainwater.
- Making your own compost.
- Using peat free compost if you are purchasing it.
- Mulching borders in the spring and autumn when the soil is moist.



Supporting Healthy Soil

Worms are a positive sign of soil fertility. By adding compost and mulching your borders regularly you can encourage worm and other invertebrates to make their home in your soil. Allowing most of your leaves and garden trimmings to rot naturally over the autumn months can encourage this activity further.

Consider Adding a Green Roof

Green roofs on sheds for example, can provide additional habitat for wildlife. If you are considering installing one, ensure that the structure is strong enough to withstand the substantial weight increase.

Creating a Wildflower Meadow

Establishing a wildflower meadow from scratch can be challenging. An alternative approach is to plant suitable plugs directly into the grass. If you have an area of bare soil Detailed guides on how to create a wildflower meadow can be found on [The Suffolk Wildlife Trust](#) website.

