



Wildlife Friendly Gardening

Issue Two

Habitats



Martlesham
Parish Council



Habitat Creation

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.

Creating Wildlife Habitats

Adding simple features can greatly increase the biodiversity in your garden.

- Create a log pile directly onto bare soil for insects, small mammals, mosses and fungi.
- If you have a lawn, leave some areas long for bees.
- Allow lawn “weeds” such as dandelions and daisies to grow.
- Ignore the urge to give your garden a thorough tidy up in the autumn and allow vegetation to die back naturally.



Encouraging Butterflies and Bees

Butterflies and bees are vital to healthy gardens, and can be supported by:

- Planting nectar and pollen rich flowers such as lavender and scabious. [The Wildlife Trusts](#) provide a useful guide on flowers for every season.
- Providing a mixture of short and long grasses.
- Creating and protecting nesting areas.
- Providing a shallow water source, such as a bird bath or plant pot saucer with submerged stones for bees to safely land and drink.
- Avoiding pesticides and fungicides



Encouraging Birds



Feeding

Offer a variety of foods including:

- Seeds
- Nuts
- Fat balls
- Mealworms mixed into fat or directly on the ground
- Move feeding locations regularly to reduce risk of predators
- Nest Boxes

Different species require different nest box designs and sizes for example, Robins and Spotted Flycatchers nest in open fronted boxes, Tits require box with an entrance hole of 28mm and House Sparrows require an entrance hole of 32mm.

More detailed guidance is available on the [RSPB website](#)

Water Sources

- Provide a bird bath or a wide shallow dish for garden birds to bathe.
- Refresh water regularly and clean bathing sources frequently to help to prevent disease. Position water sources away from predators.

Additional Habitat Features

- Create a bog garden to provide nesting spaces for swallows and house martins.
- Install multiple swift boxes to encourage groups to nest.
- [Wild About Gardens](#) have published a resource specifically for Swifts, Swallows and Martins.

