

The Tree and Bee Network

Connecting people and nature through the creation of resilient and sustainable landscapes

Funded and delivered by Bishopstoke, Fair Oak and Horton Heath Local Area Committee and local partners



Bishopstoke Parish Council



EASTLEIGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE



Helen Brown Treecare

EARLY MAY UPDATE

Tree of the month

This month's tree is the hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) which marks the seasonal shift from spring to summer as it typically flowers in May – hence the time honoured old English expression 'Ne'er cast a clout til May is out', meaning don't be tempted to cast off your winter clothes until the warmer days in May when the hawthorn, or may blossom is out.

A stella native tree, the hawthorn has both edible flowers and leaves and is a rich source of nectar for pollinators such as the feather-bright moth, hoverflies and brimstone butterflies as well as offering a bounty of berries for birds and mice in the autumn.

The hawthorn also features in ancient folk law where it was considered a sacred 'faery tree' and associated with fertility and love – possibly due to its medicinal use to treat heart and circulatory problems. It was however considered bad luck to bring branches inside, perhaps because of the overbearing scent of the flowers.



Dandelion Flower Power

Dandelions (*Taraxacum officinale*) may just look like weeds to us, but they are a vital source of pollen and nectar for honey bees, butterflies, hover flies and beetles in the early-mid spring.

Did you know that dandelions are edible and are also a rich source of potassium. The flowers, roots and leaves can be made into a tea which is both a digestive aid and has anti-oxidant and anti-inflammatory properties, traditionally used to promote gall bladder, and liver health!





NO MOW MAY

Put your feet up during May and join the national movement to avoid mowing during this early summer month to allow the natural vegetation to grow through - you'll be amazed at the results!

Research carried out by Plantlife shows that unmown lawns can produce ten times more nectar, attracting more biodiversity into your garden.

Look out for ox eye daisy, birds foot trefoil, red clover, buttercup, dead nettle and forget-me-not - and watch the pollinators dance among them while you sip your tea. Good work!

Can you help?

Join our amazing team of volunteers and help to develop our community forest gardens

OR

Grow your own fruit trees at home and add your garden to the edible landscape tapestry. We can help you to enhance your own garden to make it more wildlife friendly, lower maintenance and be more productive for you! Want to know how? Come and listen to our talk on wildlife gardening and food forests in May.

To get involved please contact:

e: TreeandBee@eastleigh.gov.uk

e: admin@bishopstokepc.org

www.fairoak-pc.gov.uk/volunteer/

BE A PART OF HELPING NATURE &
PEOPLE CONNECT



BAT/NATURE TALK

WEDNESDAY 22ND APRIL
7PM TO 8.30PM

JOIN US FOR A BAT/NATURE TALK FROM THE EXPERTS AT THE BAT CONSERVATION TRUST AT THE PARISH OFFICE ON WEDNESDAY 22ND APRIL 7PM START



SIGN UP HERE TO JOIN US:
WWW.FAIROAK-PC.GOV.UK/EVENTS/
(PLACES ARE LIMITED)

STARS OF THE NIGHT

A huge thank you to Nik Knight from the Hampshire Bat Group for a truly inspiring talk about bats:

Did you know that bats can fly at a speed of up to 50km/hr?! While the oldest bat recorded was 41 years old!

We also learned how important it is to keep our gardens dark at night to help our furry friends locate flying insects, while trees and hedges are used by bats to navigate the landscape!

So these gentle creatures need our help to make sure they aren't disturbed by bright lights, they have large trees in the landscape in which to roost and navigate by and there are enough flying insects for them to feed on.

For more information or to contact the Bat Trust:

<http://www.bats.org.uk/>

