



### **Why?**

College gardens are a sanctuary for students and make Oxford a beautiful place to live and work. Gardens are also essential for preserving biodiversity, in and around Oxford. They provide small-scale habitat patches for native British wildlife, of which bees are particularly valuable. Bees contribute significantly to the health of gardens and natural habitats across the country, and many plant species are entirely dependant on them. Bees also pollinate a third of everything we eat, and are therefore vitally important for food security. Our campaign aims to conserve bees by establishing a network of bee-friendly patches across Oxford. These patches will be in the form of a nectar bed, a vibrant collection of bee-pleasing flowers, which can be planted easily in your college garden.

### **Get your college involved!**

Contact the college Estates manager or Senior Gardener, as they decide what gets planted. The campaign may have to go to the Estates Committee or on to another senior member of staff (for example a Garden Fellow), however you should be informed of this in your initial contact with college.

Once you've done this check on progress every so often. If you see the gardeners out and about then have a chat to them and see how the planting is going. If you can't find them then drop an e-mail to the person you were dealing with and ask.

Let us know how you are doing. At OUSU we will provide advice to support the campaign within your college. Our E&E meetings are Thursdays at 5.30pm, in the OUSU building on Bonn Square and everyone is welcome. If you can't make it to that then drop us an e-mail; the address is [biodiversity.ousu.org](mailto:biodiversity.ousu.org). We will be happy to answer any questions and help as much as we can. Register with us by e-mail, and you can even join our campaign on Facebook. We look forward to hearing from you!

### **Some botanical information...**

It is useful for you and us to have a bit of background knowledge, so here are some basic botanical guidelines and some really helpful websites (see *Useful Websites*) to have a look at/pass on to your gardeners.

Plants need to provide nectar and pollen (as food for the bees) from March to November, when the bees are active. Single-flowered roses and tubular flowers are irresistible to bees. Plant flowers in drifts rather than singly, to make them easy to find. South facing with a wall as a backdrop is the best location. We'd suggest picking at least 2 plants from each list below:

**Permanent shrubs:** Brooms; Ivy; Gorse

**Spring flowers:** Bluebell, bugle, crab apple, daffodil, flowering cherry and currant, forget-me-not, hawthorn, hellebore pulmonaria, pussy willow, rosemary, viburnum, thrift

**Early-summer flowers:** Aquilegia, astilbe, campanula, comfrey, everlasting sweet pea, fennel, foxglove, geranium, potentilla, snapdragon, stachys, teasel, thyme, verbascum.

**Late-summer flowers:** Angelica, aster, cardoon, cornflower, dahlia (single-flowered), delphinium, eryngium, fuchsia, globe thistle, heather, ivy, lavender, penstemon, scabious, sedum.

### Get Funding: Sample Motion

Your college will probably have no problem purchasing the flowers from its gardening budget. But if this becomes a sticking point, don't let that stop you! Just put a motion like this one through your JCR/MCR. There's bound to be some spare cash to help out!

#### This JCR/MCR notes:

- Bees are diminishing in number and we can do something about this

#### This JCR/MCR further notes that:

- The OUSU Beds for Bees Campaign is aiming to set up a network of 'nectar beds' across Oxford, which will provide nectar and pollen for bees from March-November. This will make Oxford a better place to be a bee.
- Bees provide significant ecosystem services. They pollinate a third of everything we eat.
- Setting up a nectar bed is easy with the support that OUSU is offering.

#### This JCR/MCR therefore proposes:

- To contact the OUSU Beds for Bees Campaign and enrol on their programme to install a nectar bed in \_\_\_\_\_ college grounds
- To set up a committee with the college Gardener/Estates Bursar to implement this.
- To provide funds of up to £100 for the purchase of plants for the nectar bed.

*Proposed by: U. B. Happy*

*Seconded by: B.B. Bee*

### Contact Details

[bedsforbees@yahoo.com](mailto:bedsforbees@yahoo.com)

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/create.php?ref=ts#!/pages/Beds-for-Bees-Oxford/149547658436366>

### Useful Websites

[http://www.britishbee.org.uk/files/BBKA\\_Trees\\_for\\_Bees\\_3-way.pdf](http://www.britishbee.org.uk/files/BBKA_Trees_for_Bees_3-way.pdf)

[http://www.britishbee.org.uk/files/BBKA\\_Shubs\\_for\\_Bees\\_3-way.pdf](http://www.britishbee.org.uk/files/BBKA_Shubs_for_Bees_3-way.pdf)

<http://www.gardenersworld.com/plants/features/plants-for-bees/>

[http://www.kew.org/ucm/groups/public/documents/document/ppcont\\_018048.pdf](http://www.kew.org/ucm/groups/public/documents/document/ppcont_018048.pdf)



# Beds for Bees

Get your college involved with our Biodiversity Campaign!