

2017 theme – birds, bees and trees

For 2017, Keep Scotland Beautiful has chosen the theme of ‘Birds, Bees and Trees’ as a focus for groups taking part in Beautiful Scotland and It’s Your Neighbourhood.

Every group will be sent a packet of native Scottish wildflower seeds, from [Scotia Seeds](#), to get them started, but we would love to hear your plans and share your projects and stories of everything you do to celebrate this theme. Please email beautifulscotland@keepsotlandbeautiful.org throughout the year, and share through our social media channels - you never know who you might inspire.

[Please do [email](#) ‘before’ and ‘after’ photos of your seeds – being planted, growing, full bloom - and also record any pollinator sightings to share with us. Click [here](#) to discover what is in your packet of seeds for bees].

Here are a few ideas to get you started (thank you to Aberdeen City Council, Coupar Angus Pride of Place and our volunteers for your input):

- Monitoring – do birds use nest boxes? Which birds? Are your bird boxes in the right place? Build a bug hotel with local children and ensure they are involved in monitoring which species use the hotel – is it in the right location / made of the right materials? Get in touch with your local ranger for advice and guidance. Carry out a survey of the bees in your area – use an ID sheet from the [Bumblebee Conservation Trust](#). Make links with any natural history groups in your area for help and involvement.
- Planting for pollinators – check out the [RHS Perfect for Pollinators plant lists](#). Are pollinators visiting your plants? If so, which ones? Get young people involved in recording species and share with [Buglife](#).
- Check out [Urban Bees website](#) for advice on [trees](#) and [plants](#) in urban areas.
- Amend your pruning regime - to leave habitat and seed heads.
- Take part in [Wild About Gardens Week](#) (23 – 29 October) which is focusing on wild bees this year.
- Put up bird feeders – get businesses to ‘sponsor’ a feeder or ask the local school to get involved (for example they could make fat balls). Get people to record the birds that visit.
- Take a look at the Woodland Trust’s [‘Nature Detectives’](#) for some great ideas on how to engage children.
- Apply for a free tree pack from the [Woodland Trust](#).
- Get involved in [National Tree Week](#) (25 November – 3 December) - an opportunity to host tree related events.
- Survey the trees in your area – get your community involved in mapping out where the trees are. What are they like for wildlife? Do you need to plant more native species? Create a trail so people can discover important, interesting and quirky trees.
- Woodland plants – plant native species such as native bluebells.
- Crafting and yarn storming - knit different types of birds and bees and sell at fundraising events, display around your community in shop windows or hang from trees. Take part in [Tree Dressing Day](#) and wrap up tree trunks with decorative knitting and crochet.
- Create nature trails through your local woods – check out the Woodland Trust’s [Nature Trail guide](#).



- Host a 'bring and buy' sale of pollinator plants – make the planters from old things such as a single trainer, wellies, or old handbags. Use these to theme an area in your village or town, for example the runners garden or the old potting shed.
- Organise a poster competition and display entries in vacant shop windows or in notice boards.
- Contact your local BDIY store and ask for some paint to freshen up a local eyesore with a 'birds, bees and tree's mural – get the Community Council to help with permissions.
- Host a tea party and sell off tea cups and saucers (find in charity shops) with bird feed inside to raise funds.
- Plant up pollinator wellies to create a pathway guiding people from stations and public transport to community gardens.
- Hold a litter picking event in your local woodland and celebrate with a picnic after – food always gets people to join in. Don't forget to [register](#) it for free resources.
- Create a 'birds, bees and trees' mosaic on an old eyesore.
- Create a little 'love seat or arbour' for the 'birds and the bees'.
- Hold a [One Planet Picnic](#) in your local woodland and invite everyone in your local area. You might even get some new volunteers out of it.
- Hold upcycling or skills sharing events to make bird boxes and bug hotels.
- Design a floral mural with different varieties of seed to make a biodiverse picture.
- Invite people to your woodland or community garden for a community gala and have stalls with upcycled and recycled games, and crafts which focus on 'birds, bees, and trees'.
- Get a local band, choir or singer to write a song about the birds, bees and trees in your area and then perform it in your greenspace.
- Paint up old barrels as 'pop up' bins for your community event. Organise for young people to do the painting.
- Encourage people to paint pebbles to look like bees and birds to decorate community growing spaces.
- Take part in the 2017 [RHS Greening Grey Britain for Wildlife campaign](#)



If your group has a Facebook page or Twitter account, please link up with us so we can 'like' and help promote the work of your group. Our Twitter is twitter.com/ksbscotland; and our Facebook page is www.facebook.com/KSBScotland. Please use #BeautifulScotland or #ItsYourNeighbourhood to help spread the news of the celebrations.



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