



August 2023 - Newsletter 2.

Volunteers  
Needed To Help  
In Our Seed And  
Tree Initiatives  
- See Below

### NVN Seed Initiative:

For 3 years now members have been collecting wild flower seeds to help create spaces for our rapidly declining insect species, which are vital in the pollination process. This year, we want to expand to collecting garden plant seeds too. The reason for this is to be able to encourage more people to grow plants that will help Nature rather than just having lawns, and as yet, not everyone is prepared to go the wild flower route. Whilst the wild flower route would be our preferred option, any source of food is better than no source.

The UK Pollinator Monitoring Scheme Annual Report 2022 stated - "Interestingly, the total number of pollinators was not significantly different for native and non-native plants but native plants attracted a higher diversity of pollinators". So, please help us get ready for Spring 2024 by gathering seeds from wild flowers (never take more than 10%), and garden flowers such as Verbena, Hollyhock, Honesty, Sea Holly, Marigolds, Catnip, Verbascum, Bergamot, and any other plant you see insects are fond of.

### To Collect:

Collect the seeds in a paper bag.

Place seeds on a piece of paper (see below) and allow them to dry for 48 hours.

Then, label them, and store in paper (old envelopes are perfect).

Email us and we will arrange collection.

## Wild Flower Seeds:

All wild flower seeds are needed (not just the pretty ones), but we specifically would like Campions, Viper's Bugloss, Charlock, Garlic Mustard, Scabious, Cornflower, Knapweed, Yellow Rattle, Loosestrife, Musk Mallow and Cranesbill.

All wild flower seeds  
are needed

## If Proof of Success Were Needed:

A few years ago, Andy Bullen asked the NVN for some wild flower seeds to plant in a memorial garden in Downham Market. We have given Andy a couple of batches so far, and he has sent this picture of what the garden looks like now. [We can make a difference, but we need your help. Please gather what you can - it's what we're here for.](#)



## Our Regular Meetings With Council Environment Portfolio Holder

Once every six weeks local eco-groups meet with the Borough Council's Environment portfolio holder, Michael de Whalley. The purpose of these meetings is to find out how the Council are doing concerning green issues, and to put forward our ideas. The NVN have offered to supply young trees to fill in gaps in hedgerows, and aim to supply 1,000 trees a year once stocks are ready.

There are several reasons we have concentrated on hedgerows; e.g. The Council/landowner will not have to give up land as the hedgerow already exists; the shelter from other trees will shade the saplings giving them a better survival rate; it will help re-establish nature corridors, which are vital to a vast array of Nature's creatures.

So, we have set up 3 sapling nurseries, and are hoping members will add to the trees we already have by helping with the Tree Initiative, details of which are below.

### NVN Tree Initiative:



There is an untapped resource that almost everyone overlooks - free trees. Countless tree seedlings spring up in lawns, garden borders, road verges, only to be mown down or weeded out of existence. We are collecting these and adding them to our nurseries - so far we have over 300. Species include: Oak, Maple, Buckthorn (food source for the Brimstone butterfly caterpillar), lime, Ash, Sycamore, Holly and London Plane.

We want you to help us by saving your seedlings. All you have to do is put them in a flowerpot - it's that easy. Next time you find one in your garden, PLEASE:

**DON'T CHUCK IT - POT IT**





Linda Graham (left) with two of our young oaks at her garden nursery; Some of our younger seedlings (below left).



“Today when so much of the agricultural landscape has become less favourable to wildlife; our hedges form vital pathways across Norfolk’s beet and barley fields. They are highways for bats, and low-ways for hedgehog, stoat, weasel, rabbit, shrew, vole and mouse. They are winter shelter for partridge and pheasant. They are a myriad spring flowers providing early nectar sources and a places to sun for emerging queen bees. They are summer nesting sites for whitethroat, yellowhammer, partridge and pheasant and song post for a thousand robins, finches and thrushes. They are the autumn haunt of red admiral, comma and tortoiseshell; nut and acorn feasts for squirrel, jay and mouse, ... trees for woodpeckers to drum on, for hidden tawny owls to hoot from, and rough-barked trunks for badgers to scratch against ...”.

Excerpts from “The humble hedgerow”, by David North, Norfolk Wildlife Trust website.



NVN member, Julia Irving, has been collecting young trees. She says, “This is my stash of seedlings saved from lawns, borders and verges where they would have been pulled up or mown down (right). I recruited my neighbours and we have gathered over 50 plants in a month. FREE trees!

### Don't chuck 'em : pot 'em !

It all goes to support the NVN in its ground-breaking plans to rescue council hedgerows.

Let's all get potting little trees that would otherwise die”.

Julia is spot on. We have over 100 members, so if we all get potting we can really make a difference.



### Did You Know?

The Climate Change Committee recommends that the extent of our hedgerow network should be increased by 40% to support the UK government's goal of net-zero carbon emissions by 2050.



### Soaking up carbon:

British hedgerows store up to 13 million tonnes of carbon: the equivalent of soaking up the carbon emissions of up to 3.28 million cars over 10 years - CPRE.

# Neonicotinoids: Do you want the truth?

Come to our talk on the 7th of September (details below). You will be able to put your questions to our guest speaker, Dr. Claire Wallace, after the talk.

## IMPACTS OF NEONICS ON NATURE



*Pollinators, policy, and pesticides*

Join us at Ferry Lane Social Club (PE30 1HN) at 7:30pm on **Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> September** for a talk on Neonicotinoids and their impact on pollinators.

Presented by ecologist from Butterfly Conservation Trust **Dr. Claire Wallace**.

There will be time for questions at the end. Refreshments can be purchased from the Social Club bar.

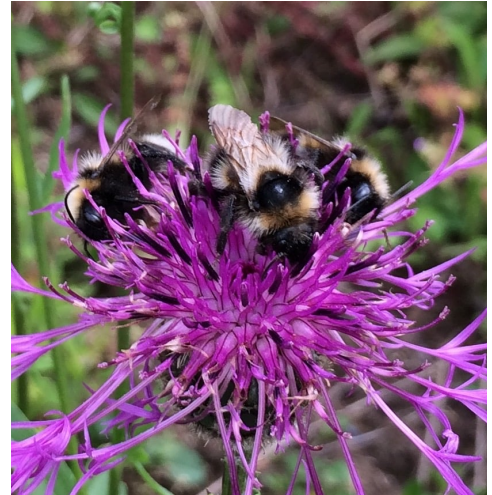


**HOSTED BY:**

**NATURE  
VOLUNTEER  
NETWORK**



**extinction  
rebellion**



### Local Pollinators at Work:

Three Bumblebees on Knapweed taken in my field (above).

Hoverfly on Viper's Bugloss in my front garden (below).



That's it for this newsletter. I hope you found it interesting. Please do help us collect seeds and trees. We really do need all we can get. Thank you for your support  
- Trudy Clark



# We Need Trees:

HAWTHORN

BLACKTHORN

HAZEL

ASH

OAK

MAPLE

SCOTS PINE

WILD CHERRY

WILD PEAR

CRAB APPLE

BUCKTHORN

BEECH

YEW

HOLLY

POPLAR

LIME

WILLOW

SYCAMORE

HORNBEAM

SWEET CHESTNUT

HORSE CHESTNUT

WILD PRIVET

ROWAN

SILVER BIRCH

ALDER

ELDER

WILD ROSE

SPINDLE

