

Kendal in Bloom 2024

Pride in Your Community

Kendal Town Council's Bloom Committee are tremendously proud of the horticultural efforts of individuals and community groups across Kendal which led to Silver Gilt Awards in Cumbria-in-Bloom 2023 and Britain-in-Bloom 2023. Attached is our 2023 Portfolio which showcases many of the brilliant, but often unseen, projects across Kendal.

The portfolio reflects the endeavors many different groups make to enhance their community through floral, horticultural and environmental projects as well as efforts to keep their locality clean and tidy. Biodiversity and the protection of wildlife are themes resonating through the portfolio as we respond to the challenges of the recommendations of Kendal's Climate Jury set up a year or two ago.

The Portfolio shows many good reasons to 'feel good' about Kendal and the range of projects featured which all contribute to community well-being.

In 2024 our challenge to you is to add to that 'feel good' factor and further enhance the sense of community well-being by creating.....

'A Blooming Lovely Display'

.....focusing on the enjoyment of Horticultural. We are asking you, either as an individual or as part of a group, to create a display or showcase an existing feature that will bring pleasure and well-being to individuals and your community. It can be a small or a larger feature and displayed for people to enjoy.

We would like you to experiment with colour and smell, textures and design. You could use flowering or ornament plants, vegetables, fruit, grasses, and maybe even water, the only limit is your imagination. It is an opportunity to embrace your creativity and be innovative with your ideas.

We are seeking a display, to enhance Kendal with a splash of colour and creativity. Committee members are keen to view your displays and meet with you in person.

So for those interested in participating please note the following.....

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- We would like to see the displays in situ by late spring/early summer and throughout the season (if possible).
- We encourage creativity with the use of flowers, vegetables, colours, materials etc
- We encourage businesses to display their creations in a prominent position. If the display is outside, ensure it is within the premise boundary and does not obstruct the highway.
- The Chair of the Committee and Mayor of Kendal will visit participating schools to view their displays shortly before the summer term finishes.
- Members of the Committee will view community and business displays during the summer.
- Please provide digital photos of your creations which can be used on our social media and Kendal Town Council website
- The initiative will be promoted via social media, leaflet drop to businesses, direct mailing to

- previous participants and the Town Council website.
- All entries will receive a certificate of participation and be invited to a celebratory tea with the Mayor in November 2024.

How to Enter

We have 3 category entries:-

- Schools
- Community Group-clubs, societies, neighbourhood groups, sports and social clubs etc
- Businesses
- Residents

Simply email your contact details and entry category to office@kendaltowncouncil.gov.uk no later than the 31st May 2024.

Cumbria in Bloom 2024

RHS It's Your Neighbourhood Scheme 2024

The last three years were challenging for us all. However, communities and individuals overcame all this, and the most amazing voluntary work took place around Cumbria. People wanted their surroundings to look their best and be cared for, they learnt new skills through growing produce during lockdown in community spaces, allotments and in their own gardens. They looked after themselves and each other's health and wellbeing by being outside and socialising with joint objectives when they could.

The **RHS "It's Your Neighbourhood" Awards** assessment scheme is for groups of three or more people involved in a smaller project in your community, such as an allotment site or other area, to enter through Cumbria in Bloom. This is a non-competitive assessment scheme. There are 5 levels of achievement – establishing, improving, advancing, thriving, and outstanding. All levels are rewarded with a Royal Horticultural Society IYN certificate. **The closing date for entries is 30th April 2024.**

For more information or to register for Its Your Neighbourhood Scheme, please contact:
liz@cumbria-in-bloom.org.uk

For more information on all the Cumbria in Bloom initiatives, please follow the link below:

[Cumbria In Bloom – Keeping Cumbria Clean and Welcoming \(cumbria-in-bloom.org.uk\)](http://cumbria-in-bloom.org.uk)

Cumbria Wild Watch

Cumbria is an amazing place! With mountains, lakes, wooded valleys, estuaries, beaches and cliffs, as well as parks and gardens, we have a fantastic range of different habitats. Cumbria is home to many species, some of which have only been recorded here. We want to better understand what animals and plants are found in Cumbria so in 2024, we are starting an annual Cumbria Wild Watch. We are asking everyone in Cumbria, both residents and visitors, to record the wildlife you see in an hour between 27th and 30th June. Record what you see (plant and animal species), where you see it (grid reference), when you see it (date and time) and who saw it (named observer) – then send your records to us at Cumbria Biodiversity Data Centre.

We are putting together lots of helpful advice on our website which we will be updating in the next few months leading up to the Cumbria Wild Watch weekend. You can download and register with the free iNaturalist app to practise recording wildlife ahead of the weekend in June.

You can also get involved by organising an event in your green space or with your community group or linking up an existing event over the Cumbria Wild Watch weekend. This could be a walk in a local park or a hands-on session exploring your school's grounds – or something else entirely! Whatever you organise, tell us about it and we will post your event on our website.

See our website or get in touch with the Cumbria Biodiversity Data Centre:

<https://www.cbdc.org.uk/get-involved/cumbria-wild-watch/> manager@cbdc.org.uk

What is Cumbria Wild Watch?

A wildlife survey that aims to build a better understanding of the wildlife of Cumbria. We want to find out what species are seen where and in what numbers.

Who can get involved with Cumbria Wild Watch?

Everyone and anyone. The only requirement is that you are within Cumbria on 27-30 June 2024!

What should I record?

Everything you see and that you can confidently identify. If you are not sure what you have seen, you can take a photograph and use iNaturalist to help you identify your sighting. iNaturalist can also be used to record your observations. We want you to tell us about the plants and animals that you see – everything!

How should I take part in Cumbria Wild Watch?

Spend up to an hour observing everything about you. You could be in your garden, in a park or out on a walk. You will need to collect information on what you see, where and when. If you are in a garden or park, many plants will be non-native but still record as many as you can confidently identify.

You can record your observations with a pen and paper or using your smartphone. We suggest downloading the iNaturalist app if you are new to wildlife recording: the app can help identify the species you see from photographs that you take. It can also download your location so there is no need for you to hunt around for grid references etc. For more information about Cumbria Wild Watch and to access resources, please see the Cumbria Biodiversity Data Centre website.

Cumbria Bee Plan



Background

Pollinators and other insects are under threat, and many are experiencing declines due to habitat loss, pesticide exposure, disease and climate change.

- Between 1980 and 2013, a third of hoverflies and native bees in Britain experienced declines.
- A third of UK bumblebees are listed as priority species of conservation concern.
- 41% of British butterflies are listed as threatened.
- Between 1970 and 2016, 41% of moth species have decreased in abundance and 32% in distribution.

The Cumbria Local Nature Partnership has recently launched “Cumbria’s Plan Bee - A Pollinator Action Plan”. The plan urges everyone in the county – communities, the new local authorities and other councils, farmers, landowners and businesses – to sign a pledge and take action to help Cumbria’s pollinating insects. [Cumbria Plan Bee | Saving our pollinators | Cumbria Wildlife Trust](#)
The plan also includes actions that can be taken by local authorities to support pollinators, including raising awareness of pollinators and their habitat needs by supporting schools and increasing the number of young people who understand the value of their local pollinators.
Kendal Town Council have signed a pledge to support pollinating insects

Bee Houses Available

We can provide each school in Kendal with a locally made bee house along with information on complementary actions that could be taken to support pollinators – for example, leaving some grass to grow long and planting pollinator-friendly plants. If you would like more information or are interested in a bee house for your school, please contact anne-marie@kendaltowncouncil.gov.uk