



## Britain's Declining Bee Population



Billions of the UK's bees are dying from unknown causes. One in three honey bee colonies in the UK were lost last winter alone. The UK's bumblebees are also suffering because there aren't enough wild flowers for them. Bees are vitally important for everyone. In all, they are responsible for pollinating one-third of all the foods we eat! **The economic value of crops grown commercially in the UK that benefit from bee pollination is estimated at approximately £165 million per year.**

### What you can do!

- Plant some flowers on your plot. Marigolds, sunflowers, sweet peas hollyhocks, Lavender, antirrhinum, nasturtiums, foxgloves, asters & chrysanthemums are bee friendly plants.

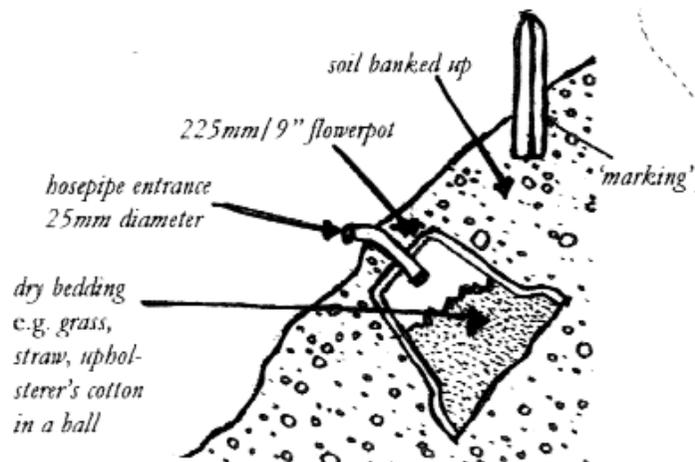
- Avoid Using Pesticides, **Pesticides will kill both harmful and beneficial insects**

### How to make a bee nest In a clay flower pot

By the end of April, half bury a 9"/225 mm deep clay flowerpot in a dry, well drained, sheltered, sunny flowerbed or hedge bottom so that the drainage hole in the base faces outwards.

Attach a short 5-6 cm length of hosepipe (25-30 mm wide) to the drainage hole. Add some bedding material such as pets' bedding, dry grass, straw, or upholsterer's cotton (not cotton wool.)

Cover over the rest of the pot with soil or vegetation so that the pipe sticks out. Plant a 10 cm tall stick upright nearby - bees may use this as a 'marking post' to help them find their way back to the nest.





# THE PLOT



THE ASHFIELD ALLOTMENTS NEWS LETTER

www.ashfield-allotments.btik.com

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### Open Day— Saturday 25th April 12.00pm—4.00pm

There will be plant sales, open allotments, a raffle, bric-a-brac stalls, refreshments, homemade cakes and a barbecue

We are looking for people to help out on the day with setting up, running stalls & selling refreshments etc.

We are also looking for people to donate any plants, bric-a-brac and bake cakes.

If you can help in any way please see a member of the committee.

### Green Pennant and Northwest In Bloom Awards

We have now submitted our applications to the Green Pennant Award and North West In Bloom Awards. The Green Pennant Award is a national award which recognises high quality green spaces, the judging will take place between April –June. North West In Bloom rewards local communities making improvements in green spaces for the benefit of local people, judging will take place in August.

We'll also be entering the Liverpool Allotments Competition again this year, we were very successful last year winning 'the best overall site'. Competition for the Liverpool awards will be tough this year with many allotment sites in the city making massive improvements.

To win these awards we need the help and support of everyone. You can help by keeping your plot fully cultivated & tidy, don't store rubbish on your plot, make sure you have composting areas and water butts on your plot. You could also consider putting a border of flowers in front of your plot or put up a hanging basket.

## Special General Meeting Report

In March we held a Special General Meeting to review how much information is available to plottolders. It was voted unanimously that plottolders are kept well informed.

We would again like to remind people that there is a lot of information available to plottolders in the Notice Boards that are near to both Site Entrances, in the office (specifically grants and site development work), Newsletters (which are published in January, April, July & October) and on our website –

[www.ashfield-allotments.btik.com](http://www.ashfield-allotments.btik.com)

**John Byrne** was presented with an award in recognition of all of his hard work that he carried out while he was Chairman.

## Flower and Vegetable Show & Open Day - Saturday 15th August

This year we have over 50 classes in the show including sections in Vegetables, Flowers, Novice, Baking, preserves and children's. Copies of the schedule and entry forms are available in the site office and on our website -

[www.ashfield-allotments.btik.com](http://www.ashfield-allotments.btik.com)

It was also suggested that we hold some classes to show plottolders how to exhibit their produce. **Alec Killen** who has won many prizes has kindly offered to help.

## Fences

At the Special General Meeting it was decided that overall fences shouldn't be encouraged as it destroys the overall open aspect of our site. In some circumstances fences may be allowed but it would have to have the permission of the committee.

**Any fence that is built without the permission of the committee will be removed**

### **STORES**

**Please use our Stores—the prices are competitive with a wide range of items. Any Small Profit we make is helpful to our funds. See Notice board for details and price list.**

### **NOTICE BOARDS**

**Please read the notice boards they are updated regularly with important information that all plot holders should know.**

## Fires

Official Guidelines from Liverpool City Council & Ashfield Allotment Association -

No fires are permitted between 1<sup>st</sup> March to 30<sup>th</sup> October

If you are going to burn anything you must ensure that it will not cause a nuisance to any other plottolders or neighbouring houses

- Fires are to be in a cleared area at a distance of at least 10 metres from any property.
- Fires are not to be left unattended at any time.
- A suitable fire extinguishing appliance to be kept available for immediate use
- Fires to be extinguished at least one hour prior to leaving the site

**Failure to follow these Guidelines could result in you facing prosecution.**

**Please Visit our Website - [www.ashfield-allotments.btik.com](http://www.ashfield-allotments.btik.com)**

## Site Development Report

Since January we have received another grant from Liverpool City Council for £1000 to purchase signs for the main gates. Since December 2005 we have been awarded **15 grants totalling at £24,709.**

Liverpool City Council are going to develop 9 new plots (1 full plot and 8 half plots) on the derelict land at the back of the site, originally plots 10-14. We have now started to develop the wildlife area at the back of the site which has been funded by Liverpool City Councils Councillors Community Initiative Fund.

We now have knotty ash Infant and Primary school & Children's centre using the communal allotment. Dovecot Mac plan to start using the site soon. Once again we'd like to thank **George Holmes** for all of the hard work that he does on the site.

## Reminders

Please show consideration to other plot holders, do not go on to another person's plot without their permission.

The gates must be locked at all times

Dogs brought on to the site must be kept on a lead at all times

You must not water your plot with a hose

Children must be supervised at all times. The Committee and Council try to make the site safe and secure but allotments by nature are hazardous places.

## Plot Inspections

Liverpool City Council have now requested that allotment Committees carry out plot inspections every few weeks. Teresa is asked to write to people who don't appear to work on their plots. This system operates throughout the city, so please don't blame the Committee if you get a letter, they are just carrying out the rules of the system. Committee members, are UNPAID VOLUNTEERS, and are here to help and advise members.

**NOTE** – are you experiencing any difficulties?

Anyone having difficulty with their plot may speak to a committee member for advice, or if you have a full plot and feel that you would be better able to cope with a smaller area, then arrangements may be possible to split your plot in half. A confidential chat with a committee member may result in your being able to enjoy working your 'reduced size' plot.

## **Compost Your Green Waste!**

It's important that you compost all of your green waste. You'll create good quality compost that can be used on your plot.

Remember if you have thick woody stems to compost you can hire our shredder for £3.

If you're a Liverpool resident you can purchase a compost bin at a subsidised rate-

Ecomax 220litre compost bin at a cost of £17.00.

Ecomax 330litre compost bin at a cost of £20.00.

Komp 250litre compost bin at a cost of £40.00.



To purchase your bin, telephone 0845 077 0757 quoting reference HCA2 or buy on-line at: [www.recyclenow.com/compost](http://www.recyclenow.com/compost)