



**November 2016**

Issue 1

# Mercia Marinas Bee group Newsletter

## 2016 update

The bee group met for an end of season get together in the Willow Tree Tearooms. A wonderful bee cake was ordered by Jane & Neil Wakeham to set the seal on the evening. What a cake it was. Specially made by Tony & Rebekah Preston it stole the show.



The group had a roundup of their achievements over the last eight months. From just three event days they had raised a fantastic sum of £1,342.59 of which £989.90 was donated to Bumblebee Conservation Trust and Derbyshire Wildlife Trusts bee project. A small amount has been put aside for future use such as buying stock for the next event day stalls.

When the donation was made to the BBCT they called the bee group 'An amazing group of people'. Such appreciation these days is rare.

It was also agreed that next year the group will add to their efforts hover flies, moths and butterflies. All of these insects are pollinators so feed on the same plants which the bees love. The cottage garden for pollinators which the group designed and planted has proved extremely successful. Even as late as October Red-tailed, White-tailed and Carder bees are being seen feeding on eight different flowers. The amount of blooms still going strong is amazing even the spring bulbs are coming up. Don't know what will happen when we get our first frost. Many are predicting a winter like 1963, however we have heard

it all before. So, fingers crossed the new garden will thrive even through the winter. Neil & Nigel have been drilling some holes in the sides of the sleepers to provide nesting and over wintering places for other insects. Which in turn will feed small birds etc.

There is now a lovely sign telling everyone why the garden was created. Sets it off a treat. Thanks to Tony and his artistic skills.



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Jane & Neil have been on a workshop at Kedleston Hall with BBCT to learn how to set up and register a transect for bee walks. This is something that the

group could perhaps start to undertake next year thereby helping to map the location of all bees throughout UK.

Apparently, the bee nesters made from canes need to be split open, the cocoons removed and preserved over winter. This is because mites get inside and feed on the larval bees. More information on this to follow. Something we can add to our education areas next year? How much we still have to learn.

Hope you like the idea of a newsletter. They will only be sent to members of the bee group. Hopefully other wildlife groups which get set up will follow a similar course. There will also be one for the mammal group and copies will go to Jo James who will pick out interesting items to add the Mercia Mercury.

All the group have put in sterling work this year and their efforts have been an inspiration to others who now want to get involved in other wildlife projects. Well done and long live the Bee Group.

Jane & Neil.